Asean raises ante in counterterrorism campaign

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IN *Sunday Inquirer*

PUMAREN

- La Salle's Franz Pumaren after the fall
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Spratlys claimants OK code of conduct

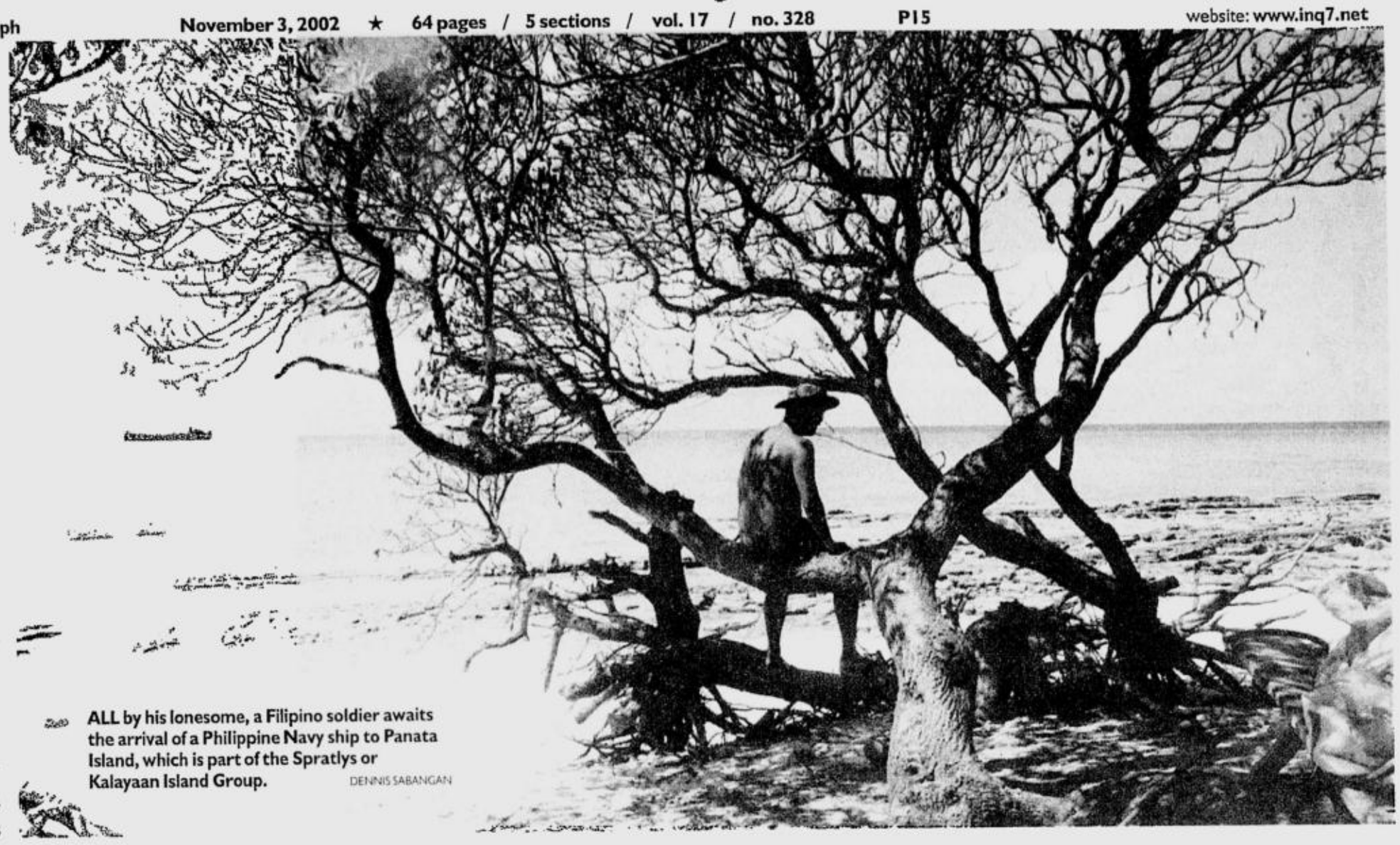
PHNOM PENH—A landmark breakthrough in resolving the battle of sovereign claims in the hotly disputed South China Sea was hailed Saturday as a genuine move toward ensuring regional and global security.

Under the agreement struck between the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China, all parties pledged to refrain from activities that would escalate tensions in the South China Sea.

The pact is expected to pave the way for a binding "code of conduct" for state behavior in contested areas where several military skirmishes have taken place over the past two decades.

A copy of the draft agreement said claimants would help any person in distress in the contested area, encourage exchange of

SPRATLYS/ A5



ALL by his lonesome, a Filipino soldier awaits the arrival of a Philippine Navy ship to Panata Island, which is part of the Spratlys or Kalayaan Island Group. DENNIS SABANGAN

Give up war, Reds urged

Reyes says EU blacklisting strategic loss for rebels

By TJ Burgonio and Carlito Pablo

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday offered the olive branch to the communist rebels, saying "the policy of accommodation" was open to those who would abandon the 33-year armed struggle.

Reyes said in a statement that the European Union's inclusion of Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army in its terrorist list amounted to a "strategic loss" for the insurgents and served as a signal to them to change their violent stance.

"I think it's time for them to seriously reconsider (their position) and start efforts to drop and renounce armed struggle and their use of terror and violence," Reyes said, adding:

"The policy of accommodation remains open to the (insurgents) who would renounce violent aims and show willingness to join the country's democratic process."

Besides, their armed struggle to establish a Maoist state in the country had caused "so much misery, so much loss of lives and damage to property," said Reyes, who had earlier announced that the government would draft a comprehensive peace plan to end the communist insurgency.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson said her administration was ready to meet the fiercer war of which the Netherlands-based Sison had warned.

"We're prepared for that," Rigoberto Tiglao said. "We've always been alerted on possible terrorist attacks by the NPA. It's

GIVE/ A6

Healing touch of Sr. Raquel

By Bernardo V. Lopez
Contributor

A WOMAN from Cabanatuan City had cancer of the ovary and was in constant extreme pain.

She found an article cut out from an old issue of the INQUIRER, so tattered that she held it carefully for fear that it would fall apart. The article, titled "Miracle of the Rain," was about a certain Sister Raquel Reodica, RVM, who could heal terminal cancer patients in the name of the Lord.

The woman wanted so much to see Sister Raquel but the article did not say how. And even if she knew the way, she had neither

HEALING/ A20

FIND a hero, work hard and aim high, even at the presidency, Dr. Terrel Hill, United Nations Children's Fund representative to the Philippines, tells children at a day care center in Bontoc, Mt. Province. MAR DELA CRUZ/UNICEF

Dream big, Cordillera children told

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BONTOC, Mt. Province—A president from the boondocks?

This is not a far-fetched idea for Dr. Terrel Hill, representative to the Philippines of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef).

During a visit to different public schools and day care centers in the remote villages of Besao, Sagada and Bontoc towns last month, Hill talked about his dream for indigenous children, assuring them that they are special and are among the priorities of the United Nations and the government.

"Whatever your circumstances in life, I encourage you to dream big, find a hero and work hard. You can be a country boy now but you can travel and see the rest of the world later," Hill said.

"I dream that one day, a child from Mt. Province can become the President of the Philippines," Hill told the children, who performed traditional dances and chants to welcome him and his group.

Since most children in Mt. Province do not understand English yet, Hill's speech was

DREAM/ A20

'Working' journalists held in Guam

By Isagani M. Yambot
Publisher

AGANA, Guam—Business or pleasure? For splitting hairs on the meaning of "work," a Filipino newspaper publisher found himself detained and questioned by US immigration officials early yesterday.

Amado "Jake" Macasaet

WORKING/ A20

New tech lets you build a house in 3 days

By Tessa R. Salazar

FOR P55,000 or less, you can build your own small house in three days. And while you're at it, you can save on labor costs by hiring family members as your laborers.

All you need is gravel and cement. Or sugarcane.

That's right. There are two ways to build your P50,000 house: use either uniquely designed hollow blocks, or recycled sugarcane bagasse and steel. Each won't take more than three days to build a decent 20-25 sq.m. house.

If you opt for sugarcane bagasse (sugarcane pulp), you'll need a drill, an extra hand or two, and a portable steel-framing machine called the Scottsdale.

Bought in the United States by the social housing foundation of the Chamber of Real Estate Builders Association (Creba), Scottsdale is based on an old technology for building larger houses. It can cut steel into specific sizes and is capable of performing any house design to suit a specific housing unit.

The machine is capable of producing housing components in eight hours, or five units of the same size for a 20-sq.m. house.

The walling and cladding used for this type of house is the enviroboard, a material made up of recycled sugarcane bagasse manufactured by the Cebu-based Enviroboard Manufacturing Inc.

Initially used as a substitute for plywood, the enviroboard is fireproof, termite-proof and water-resistant. It does not crack, peel or chip off when nailed through even with common wire nail or cut with an ordinary saw.

The enviroboard is said to require less paint, resulting in savings on cost of labor and materials of almost half. It is also an ef-

NEW/ A20

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Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers becoming more frequent rains over the Eastern sections. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

US eases travel advisory to RP

THE UNITED States has moderated its travel advisory to the Philippines to take into account tighter security against possible new terror attacks in the country, a presidential spokesperson said Saturday.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, said the Palace welcomed the revision of the US State Department advisory that had cast the Philippines in a negative light.

The previous advisory warned Americans against traveling to parts of southern Philippines where kidnappings and bombings have taken place.

Tiglao said he had been informed the new advisory acknowledges that Philippine security forces "have put into place extra security measures . . . to deter possible terrorist attacks."

He stressed that the US State Department was not advising Americans not to come to the country, but was only telling them to "exercise caution and vigilance," while in the Philippines. *AFP*

SUMMIT OPENS MONDAY

Asean raises anti-terror ante

PHNOM PENH—Southeast Asian leaders announced measures Saturday to step up their fight against terrorism but also criticized Western government travel warnings issued against the region.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Secretary General Rodolfo Severino told Agence France Presse that a joint statement on terrorism would be released during the group's annual summit that begins here Monday to express concern over the recent spate of deadly bomb attacks in Indonesia and the Philippines.

"They will stress their commitment to anti-terrorism and say that Asean is doing practical things to combat terrorism," Severino said.

As part of its boosted efforts, Severino said Asean would sign a memorandum of understanding with China to cooperate on transnational crime, which would cover terrorism.

Thailand's Foreign Secretary Tej Bunnag also said that about five major Asean meetings would be held over the next 12 months, some of which would include China, Japan and South Korea, to intensify regional cooperation against terrorism.

And Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja said an anti-terrorism center would be set up in Malaysia.

However, Severino said Southeast Asian leaders felt Western governments, especially through their travel advisories, were unfairly labelling the region as excessively dangerous.

"I think there is an unconscious effort to identify Southeast Asia with terrorism because of the large number of Muslims in this area," he said.

"It is true there are terrorist cells—whether they are international or home-grown—in Southeast Asia," Severino said. "But we also know that there are such terrorist cells in Britain and Germany but nobody is calling or issuing advisories about travel to Germany and Britain."

Thailand's Tej also lashed out at the Western travel advisories while Baja said the issue would be raised in the joint declaration on terrorism.

"We think these travel advisories are indiscriminate, they have no established evidence and I think all Asean countries are affected in the same way," Tej said.

The Asean officials' comments came as US authorities warned that they feared a repeat of last month's bomb blasts on Indonesia's holiday island of Bali that left at least 190 people dead, many of them Australians.

"In the aftermath of the terrorist bombings in Bali, Indonesia, the possibility exists that similar attacks may occur in other Southeast Asian nations," the US Department of State said in a statement.

"The department is concerned that individuals and groups may be planning terrorist actions against United States citizens and interests, as well as sites frequented by Westerners."

Aside from the Oct. 12 blast in Bali, which Western nations and some Indonesian officials have linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network and its regional allies, 23 people were killed in the Philippines last month in bomb attacks blamed on terrorists.

Western governments issued travel warnings for most Southeast Asian nations recently, including Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Asean groups Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. China, South Korea, Japan, India and South Africa will also participate in concurrent meetings at the Asean summit. *AFP*

New rosary mysteries timely—Bishop Soc

By Armand N. Nocum

OUT of the darkness, light.

Church leaders last week said Pope John Paul II couldn't have chosen a better time to institute the new mysteries of the rosary, because the worldwide gloom cast by the long shadow of terrorist bombings called for an explosion of light.

"There is only one thing that the world needs now, and it is light because terrorism brings us darkness, corruption brings us darkness, and man's inhumanity to man--and war--brings us darkness," Manila Auxiliary Bishop Socrates "Soc" Villegas told Church reporters in an interview.

Villegas said the Pope's decision to introduce the mysteries on the public ministry of Jesus Christ could not have come at a better time.

Pointing

When Pope John Paul II asked the faithful to reflect on the mysteries of light, he said, "he's actually pointing to us the answer to all our need for hope and light in the world. That in order to fight terrorism, we have to bring back God into the society."

Villegas added: "In order to stop war, we must allow the message of peace that comes from God to prevail in society."

In the first public recitation of the new "Mysteries of Light" in the archdiocese of Manila last Thursday, Villegas asked people to embrace the mysteries to bring hope and stability back to their lives.

A crowd of some 2,000—including priests, nuns, members of religious organizations and lay people—had gathered for the unique assembly.

Living in fear

Villegas noted that in these times "people are living in fear, people are getting desperate, people are becoming cynical, skeptical and we're losing hope. So what do we do (but find the) light."

"So, the mysteries of light point to the light which is Jesus, the light of the world," he said. "It helps us to realize that the power that will solve the present darkness that is taking over the world is from God and we must discover that from within us."

In the Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae (Latin for The Rosary of the Virgin Mary), the Pope set forth the new mysteries: (1) The baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan. (2) His self-manifestation and miracles at the wedding at Cana. (3) His proclamation of the Kingdom of God, with his call to conversion. (4) His transfiguration. And (5) His institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

Army foils NPA 'copy-cat' raid

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Army troopers in Aurora province yesterday reported foiling a New People's Army attack on a police station in Dingalan town.

Col. Jovenal Narcise, chief of the 702nd Infantry Brigade, said two of four captured rebels in Dingalan admitted the plan during interrogation.

Narcise claimed that Joseph Evangelista, known as Ka Mario and Ka Gerry, and Alex Macaraeg, known as Ka Romeo, admitted that a kidnap attempt on Romeo John Roxas II on Oct. 20 was "only part of the plan to raid" the police station.

Narcise said the rebels planned to use Roxas, vice president for operations of the logging firm Green Circle Properties, as a "shield to enter the police station."

"This (would have) been a repeat of the (Compostela Valley incident in September)," Narcise said in a report here.

In that incident, the rebels used the mayor of Maco town to gain access to a police station.

For the planned raid in Dingalan, Narcise said Evangelista and Macaraeg disclosed that two NPA units, one led by Ka Joven from Gen. Nakar, Quezon, and another led by Ka Joshua of Dingalan, joined forces on Oct. 20.

The groups, with a total of 29 members, met at the Umiray wharf, commandeered a Green Circle dump truck and then traveled to Sitio Amutan, Barangay Matawe in Dingalan. The plan was to abduct Roxas on Oct. 23.

Roxas escaped by driving past the checkpoint set up by the NPAs, but NPA sources in Aurora last week denied the kidnap try on Roxas. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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DEAN RICARDO L. SADAC
President & Review Director

Cops gear up for post-holiday dash for home

By TJ Burgonio

NOTING that the observance of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day was generally peaceful, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday directed the police to focus on ensuring the safe return to their homes of the millions of people who trekked to the provinces to mark the holiday.

As of Nov. 1, the national police yesterday received no reports of major untoward incidents as the country marked the second of two days when people in the Philippines' 16 regions troop to cemeteries to honor their dead, police officials said.

Ebdane instructed police regional directors to set up public assistance centers along the country's highways and major thoroughfares and in bus terminals to help people trying to get home.

He also advised them to tap the services of civic-oriented and media groups in manning the public assistance centers, which would receive complaints as well as issue advisories on alternative routes to motorists.

"Today we are expecting the influx of people coming from the provinces. We are again asking various civic groups to help us in manning these centers," said Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, acting director for operations, directed local police units to update their security and traffic plans in view of the mass departure of people for Metro Manila.

"Undertake the necessary precautions and coordination, and encourage the active involvement of the government agencies concerned, NGOs, radio groups," he said in a memorandum.

The PNP and the military went on high alert Friday. They deployed troops and bomb-sniffing dogs to cemeteries and malls to thwart possible terrorist attacks. The alert will be lifted at midnight today.

REMEMBERING PAYATAS JOAN BONDOC

Children who lost relatives in the July 10, 2000 Payatas dumpsite tragedy in Quezon City mark All Souls' Day by lighting candles and asking for justice for their loved ones, many of whose bodies remain buried in the mountain of garbage. From left are Erwin Delara, who lost his 11-year-old brother Erik; Julie Ann Pelano, who lost six relatives, and John V. Fera, who lost three relatives.

Witness recounts Laarni's move from townhome to W Wack

By Volt Contreras

A BANK officer told the Sandiganbayan last Wednesday how Laarni Enriquez, one of deposed President Joseph Estrada's mistresses, moved from a small Quezon City townhouse to an opulent home in ritzy Wack Wack in Mandaluyong City by the time her partner assumed power.

And Enriquez's account at PSBank's Murphy branch in Cubao also began running into the millions of pesos beginning in the second half of 1998, the witness said. Estrada was sworn in as President on June 30 that year.

The biggest single deposit to Enriquez's savings account was made sometime in late 1999 amounting to P40 million, said PSBank branch manager Carolina Guerrero, the prosecution's 45th witness in the Estrada plunder trial.

Enriquez, a former movie starlet who has three children by Estrada, is not an accused in the case, but her PSBank account came under scrutiny as part of the paper trail of Estrada's alleged *jueteng* payola collections.

This after juetengate whistle-blower Luis "Chavit" Singson earlier claimed he shelled out P1.2 million to help other Estrada friends pay for a P13-million necklace to be given to Enriquez as a birthday gift.

Guerrero, who was called to the witness stand mainly to corroborate Singson's claim, said a P1.2-million Metrobank check issued by Singson was entered into Enriquez's account on Dec. 24, 1999.

Guerrero said the address Enriquez gave to the bank was a townhouse on 8th Avenue, Murphy, when she opened savings account No. 409099-3 in 1996.

When she closed the account in December 2000, Enriquez's address was on Harvard Street in the upscale Wack Wack subdivision, the witness said.

Guerrero claimed to have personally seen the two residences when she picked up the checks for deposit and when she hand-carried withdrawal slips for Enriquez. However, she never met Enriquez personally on such trips and dealt only with an aide, she said.

DPWH men in P182-M repair scam reinstated

TWO ranking officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways, who were suspended in connection with the P182-million vehicle repair scam at the agency, have been allowed to return to work, but with the stern warning to keep a tight rein over operations in their respective divisions.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said it was President Macapagal-Arroyo who ordered the lifting of the suspension of Undersecretaries Edmundo Mir and Mabini Pablo.

Pablo had overall supervision of the administrative and manpower management service, comptrollership and financial management and legal services division of the DPWH.

Mir was in charge of the bureaus of design, construction, maintenance and equipment, and the project management offices.

About 40 bureau of maintenance officials and personnel are facing graft charges in connection with "ghost" repairs on thousands of vehicles at the DPWH motor pool.

"They are back at their posts, but they have been ordered to be in the forefront of the fight against graft," said Datumanong in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

He said the Malacañang memorandum reinstating the two officials also instructed them to "see to it that their subordinates act properly within the bounds of their delegated responsibilities."

In the memorandum, Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo "strongly warned and admonished" Pablo and Mir to prevent similar irregularities from happening again. *Armand Nocum*

Mediate, SC tells litigants, to unclog CA

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court is addressing the issue of perennially clogged dockets in the Court of Appeals by urging litigants not to drag all their problems to the court, but to go to court-appointed mediators.

Aware of lessening litigants' penchant for asking the CA to mediate almost every case, the high tribunal came up with a system of voluntary mediation. It expects the mediation will speed up resolution of cases on appeal and unclog the appellate court's dockets.

Testing of the mediation program started on Sept. 16 and will last until Nov. 16.

During this period, the CA is conducting proceedings for qualified cases where parties voluntarily agreed to resolve their differences through mediation.

Cases referred for mediation are those involving civil, labor and special action. Not qualified for mediation are criminal and habeas corpus cases and petitions for injunctions, unless both parties consent to mediation.

The program is administered by the Philippine Judicial Academy (Philja), the education arm of the SC, in cooperation with the Philippine Mediation Foundation Inc.

To prepare the CA for mediation, Philja recruited, trained and appointed a group of high-caliber mediators composed of retired judges, justices, senior members of the bar and senior law professors.

The SC, in a news release, said the mediators were found to "have creative problem-solving skills and strong interest in mediation."

"The mediators function as neutral third party facilitators who help in conflict resolution by systematizing and directing the parties' discussions to... developing a range of motions and inventive solutions to best satisfy their interests," the SC said.

Of 120 cases pre-selected for mediation, over 50 responded favorably, the SC said.

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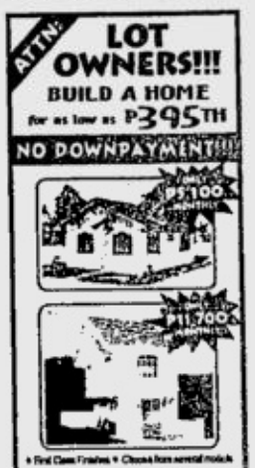
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'Manong' makes it to Smithsonian through pictures

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington correspondent

WASHINGTON—The prestigious Smithsonian Institution is holding an exhibit of rare photographs taken by a Filipino immigrant of Filipino-Americans in post-war San Francisco.

The exhibit opens at the National Museum of American History on Nov. 21 and will run until March 31. A 15-city, three-year national tour will follow.

"This is heady stuff. The Smithsonian means going big-time," said Aurora Jose Wong, Filipino-American civic leader and co-chair of the exhibit's fund-raising committee.

The exhibit, dubbed "Thru My Father's Eyes," was first held at San Francisco Main Library's Jewett Gallery in 1998, during the Philippine Centennial celebration. It enjoyed critical acclaim.

Anabeth Guthrie of the Smithsonian's public affairs office said the collection of rare photographs "offers a poignant portrayal of the Filipino-American community in San Francisco from the early 1940s to the late 1950s."

The Smithsonian, located in this US capital, is the world's largest museum complex and research organization. It is composed of 16 museums and galleries and the National Zoo. Its vast collection totals over 142 million art pieces and other objects.

The exhibit is a collection of photographs taken by Ricardo Ocreto Alvarado who migrated to San Francisco in 1928. He was part of the *Manong* (brother) generation, the first wave of Filipinos who arrived in the United States.

Alvarado's passion

Photography was a passion for Alvarado. Using a 4x5-speed Graphflex camera and a two-and-a-quarter Graphflex, he took pictures of Mexicans, African-Americans and Filipinos at work and at play—on the farm and in family parties.

Alvarado came from Urdaneta, Pangasinan. He went to the US filled with dreams for a better life but all he got were menial jobs. During World War II, he served in the Pacific with the US Army's First Filipino Regiment. After the war, Alvarado supported his passion for photography by working as a civilian cook for the Letterman Army Hospital in San Francisco.

He died in 1976.

Two years later, his eldest daughter, Janet, then 17, found some crates in their basement containing 3,000 negatives and photos. Janet was 7 when her father told her stories about the Filipinos at the parties and her parents' relatives.

She began sorting out the collection. At first, she did the work at home alone. Later, she started The Alvarado Project.

Composed of educators, scholars, artists and community leaders, it was an ad hoc curatorial and historical advisory committee, formed so Janet could obtain endorsements. With their help, Janet researched the photos' historic locales and chose 50 photos for the exhibit.

Janet designed the exhibit into five sections: The First Wave, Post World War II Era, The Second Generation, Diversity and The Collection.

Her father's legacy

Janet is a San Francisco State University (SFSU) industrial design graduate. She worked as a production coordinator with the Montera Creative Group until March 2001. Currently, she's working full-time on managing the project and a book.

"People tell me the exhibit is a great contribution by the Asian-American community to mainstream America," Janet told the INQUIRER during a telephone interview.

"It's also a great thing because finally, my father is being recognized as an artist and not as someone who did not make it in America—which is how the latter waves of college-educated, professional Filipino immigrants tended to view the *Manong* generation," she said.

Most of the first Filipinos who arrived in Hawaii and San Francisco faced two major hurdles: the lack of a college degree and a strong anti-Asian mood in the US. They had to settle for farm work and menial jobs in hotels and restaurants. In Alaska, they toiled in salmon canneries.

Through her research, Janet realized "the tremendous contributions" of the early generation—Fil-Ams and other Asian Americans who, as farm hands, laborers and railroad construction workers, helped built America.

The Asian Pacific American Labor Association is proud to be one of the exhibit sponsors, said Apala executive director Jin Sook Lee.

Janet is proud of what her parents accomplished, given the anti-Asian laws and the harshness of the pre-Civil Rights era.

"My parents were determined to give me and my brother a much better life and a brighter future," she said.

Education was key to this dream.

Her brother Joseph studied at the University of California at Berkeley, SFSU and U.C. Berkeley extension. He's a business analyst at Charles Schwab in San Francisco's financial district.

Janet's mother, Norberta Magallanes Alvarado, and Joseph will attend the Smithsonian reception.

Mrs. Alvarado, who turns 83 on that day, is "excited over the exhibit."

Others flying in from San Francisco are Janet's classmates and Barbara Marza Hill, 52, one of her dad's subjects. Barbara was 7 at that time.

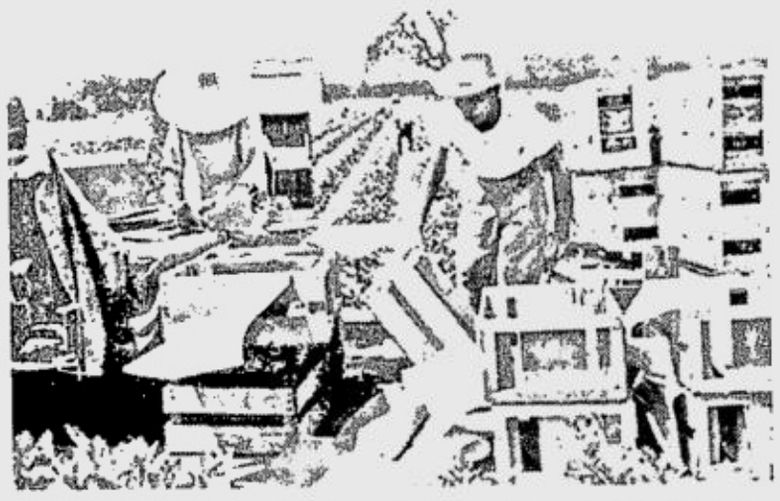
Janet described his dad as a devoted husband and father.

"He wasn't tall but he had a quiet, large presence in a room of people. He was very charming and witty, patient and gentle.

"Once he found my report card that I tried to hide when I was in the third grade, because I had a 'D' in physical education, current events or something. He told me then that he would sign it, but he made me promise to improve my grade next time."

Indeed, the Smithsonian exhibit is as much about a generation as about Janet's dad, as seen through a daughter's loving eyes.

COCKFIGHTER AND FRIEND
Cockfighting was popular in the Filipino community. Families came from miles around to gamble on the contests and enjoy the spectacle.



THE HARVEST
Filipino migrant workers harvested bell pepper, lettuce, celery, artichoke and asparagus crops. In earlier times, Chinese and Japanese had worked the same fields.

FARMERS MARKET
A family, right, checks out a Filipino stand selling strawberries, artichokes, sugar beets and other produce.

Fil-Ams rap firing by computer toy maker

SAN FRANCISCO—Outraged by Sega of America Inc.'s recent firing of 12 Filipino-Americans, the Fil-Am community here has started organizing a boycott of the game manufacturer's products.

The boycott stems from the filing last month by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) of a discrimination lawsuit against Sega and Spherion Corp. for firing 12 Filipino game testers due to their national origin.

Sega is a video and games developer while Spherion is a recruitment company for temporary workers in the technology industry.

EOCC's efforts to mediate on behalf of the Filipinos failed, thus the filing of the lawsuit.

Chandler E. Ramas III, Contributor

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QUEZON CIRCLE

Spratlys claimants OK code of conduct

From page A1

views among defense officials, and give advance warning of military exercises.

"Malaysia is extremely happy with the breakthrough . . . The signing represents a major turning point for all claimant countries," a Malaysian foreign ministry source said.

"We are living in difficult times amid the threat of terrorism and it will send a positive signal to the international community that all countries in the region are committed to ensuring and preserving peace and stability."

Asean countries have tried for three years to draw up a binding code of conduct to prevent armed conflicts from erupting in contested areas of the South China Sea. The disputed areas, which straddle busy sea lanes, are believed to be rich in oil and marine resources.

Spratlys

The disputed territories include the Spratly Islands, claimed in whole or in part by the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, China and Taiwan. Also contested are Scarborough Shoal, claimed by the Philippines and China, and the Paracel Islands, disputed by China and Vietnam.

Diplomats said agreement on the declaration was reached after both Asean and China made key compromises, and references to its geographical scope were removed.

"It's not a very strong draft, it's not a legally binding document, but it's still a basis for going forward that we've worked years toward reaching," said an Asean diplomat, based in Phnom Penh.

China had opposed any specific reference to all three disputed areas, while Vietnam and other Asean countries had pushed for their inclusion.

"Basically, we are saying that pending the resolution of the jurisdictional and territorial disputes, this is how we should behave: We should not occupy uninhabited land features (in the South China Sea)," Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino said.

Signing

Asean chief spokesperson M.C. Abad said the agreement, to be signed here on Tuesday, would help ease tensions in the region. He described it as "an important contribution to the cause of regional and global peace." Labeling the deal the "Cambodian Agreement," Abad said it also marked Cambodia's entry into regional diplomacy after three decades of civil conflict.

"The Cambodia Agreement is a fitting tribute to a country that has gone a long way in transforming itself from a place which is almost synonymous with the Killing Fields to a broker of an instrument of peace in the region," he said.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said that as the current Asean chair, his country was thrilled "that Asean and China have agreed to settle this problem."

One senior Western diplomat said: "It is a major breakthrough, a very welcome one, and we've been waiting for this for years."

The agreement was made after marathon negotiations chaired by Chem Widhya, permanent secretary from Cambodia's foreign ministry.

Four Asean countries at the center of the disputes—Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam—reached an agreement on the common text on Oct. 11. The remaining six Asean members—Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Burma, Singapore and Thailand—approved the text on Oct. 31.

Beijing gave its approval to the agreement on Friday as Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji arrived here for the two-day Asean summit, which will draw leaders from 15 countries.

The meeting in Cambodia on Monday and Tuesday will be attended by leaders of the 10-member Asean, as well as by China, Japan, South Korea, India and South Africa.

"Within 15 days we have gone from one landmark step to another," Chem Widhya said. "This is a major political and diplomatic agreement."

Vietnam and China have clashed twice over the Spratly Islands, in 1988 and 1992, while skirmishes have also occurred between other countries, straining bilateral relations while threatening to undermine regional security.

One of the latest flare-ups in the Spratlys took place in late August, when Vietnamese troops based on an islet fired warning shots at Philippine military planes. *AFP, AP*

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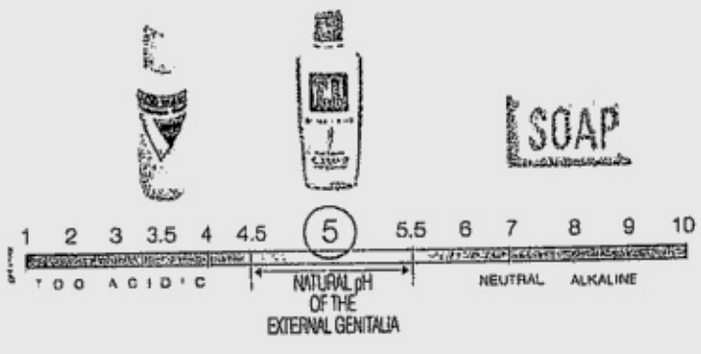

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Give up war, Reds urged

From page A1

so easy for Sison to order the NPA to attack while he is safe in the Netherlands."

Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines and now chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, said Friday that a "fiercer armed revolution" would result from his and the NPA's blacklisting.

Tiglao also said the administration was unfazed by Sison's threat that the blacklisting would result in the scuttling of the peace talks between the government and the NDF.

"If they want to abort the talks, that's their decision. We regret Sison's statement asking the NPA to heighten attacks," Tiglao said.

He also mentioned "moves to extradite" Sison, but did not elaborate.

Reyes warned those who would refuse to give up the armed struggle: "The hard-cores opposed to peaceful means will be dealt with strongly if they insist on carrying on the tactic of terrorism."

But Chief Supt. Robert Delfin, police director for intelligence, belittled the insurgents' fighting strength.

If ever, they can only raid police stations or militia detachments on the outskirts of the cities and municipalities, he said.

"They had threatened to intensify their attacks, but nothing came out of it," Delfin said in an interview. "I doubt if they can still mount major offensives."

From a peak of 25,000 in 1987, the strength of the NPA is down to less than 10,000, Delfin said.

Still, Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., chief of the Philippine National Police, ordered all police units to brace for possible rebel attacks.

"We are reminding the entire police force to monitor and strengthen security in the vital installations to prevent any untoward incident that this group may carry out," said PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil.

Unchanged policy

Edgardo Ermita, chief government peace negotiator and one of the President's advisers, told ABS-CBN that stepped-up attacks by the communist rebels in response to the EU blacklisting would "only prove they really are (on) the level of the terrorists."

"The policy of government (set) by the President has not changed. The lines of communication continue to be open," he said, adding that "only the other side" was making new threats.

Ermita also said the Cabinet was working on a draft peace agreement that could serve as terms of reference for future peace talks with the NDF.

Asked why the government campaigned to have the communists declared as terrorists despite seeking peace talks with them, he said: "We are just being very candid about the situation in the Philippines."

He also said the military and police had long regarded the CPP-NPA as terrorist even while peace talks were being held.

Tiglao said that as far as the Palace was concerned, no decision had been reached on the matter of the peace negotiations.

"The President and her security advisers are still evaluating options," he said, but added that the administration was prepared to use "all channels to stop the violence."

Formal peace negotiations resumed early last year but were suspended by the government after the insurgents carried out high-profile assassinations, including that of former Constabulary intelligence officer and Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

The President has since authorized only "back-channel" contacts with the NDF.

Think twice

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front wants Sison to think twice before abandoning the peace process.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu told the INQUIRER in Cotabato City that the Moro revolutionary movement had always been in sympathy with Sison, especially after the communist movement was branded terrorist by foreign governments.

"We sympathize with our brother revolutionaries in the NDF, but things should be studied carefully and wisely," Kabalu said in reaction to Sison's statement yesterday on national television that the NDF was pulling out of the peace talks.

Kabalu urged Sison to "prove that the United States, Australia and the EU were wrong," and warned that Sison's decision could lead to "bloodshed, waste of life and property."

He said the government should also "explore other avenues" to resume the peace talks.

"Negotiation as a vehicle for a peaceful settlement of conflicts is now the trend worldwide," he said, adding that the MILF had been guided by the same principle.

Also yesterday, the militant fisherfolk group Pamalakaya challenged the EU to conduct its "own social investigation" of the Philippine situation "and understand why its terrorist tag on the NPA and Sison has no objective and sound basis."

It also questioned why the tag would come from a group of states regarded as a "bastion of human rights defenders."

"In the name of truth, justice and fair play, we ask the European Council to come over and witness the US-led terrorism against the Filipino people," Pamalakaya spokesperson Gerry Corpuz said. "This will help it realize the necessity of objecting to the United States' borderless war on terror and of resuming the peace talks."

Campaign

Pamalakaya national chair Fernando Hicap urged Vice President Teofisto Guingona to initiate a global campaign for the scrapping of the terrorist tag on Sison and the NPA.

"Vice President Guingona set the record straight when he said (Friday) that a clear distinction had to be made between the NPA and the terrorists," Hicap said in a statement. "It was a reaffirmation that the tools of armed conflict should be addressed politically and not by a hard-core militarist solution hiding behind the terror hype of the US and the Macapagal-Arroyo fascist syndicate."

Sen Teresa Aquino-Oreta also urged the President to exhaust all means to forge peace with the rebels.

"The government should explore all avenues toward peace before deciding to shift its approach in dealing with the long-festering communist insurgency," Oreta said. *With reports from Volt Contreras and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila; Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau; AFP*

The world has changed, Tiglao tells CPP leaders

By Carlito Pablo

THE WORLD has changed, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson, and he intends to point this out to two ex-comrades in the communist movement whom he thinks he can convince to give up armed struggle.

"It's a hope" that Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday said he would relay to Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, who, he said Friday, were running the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

Tiglao said that when he and the Tiamzons were young, armed struggle was an attractive option because "there was no democracy."

"It was the time of the Marcos dictatorship and there were no means to address social problems peacefully. Now there is democracy," he said.

He also said such models as Mao Zedong's cultural revolution in China had been discredited and only resulted in the death of many people who did not toe the communist line.

"The world is different after 30 years," declared Tiglao, who allegedly once served as secretary of the CPP's Manila-Rizal committee.

Tiglao said the other day that he was willing to serve as mediator to the Tiamzons, in an apparent move to isolate exiled CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison. He also said he felt pity for the couple whom he described as "getting old" and "sick."

Yesterday, he said he was making his offer to negotiate with the Tiamzons through the media because he no longer had contacts in the underground. He claimed to have these contacts when he was still a journalist about five years ago.

But Rafael Mariano, chair of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, scoffed at Tiglao's offer.

Mariano pointed out that if it did push through, Tiglao's proposed dialogue with the Tiamzons would be conducted outside the framework of the peace talks.

"Tiglao's so-called offer is another roadblock and a clear act of sabotage to the resumption of the peace negotiations. He knows very well that the CPP leadership will not agree to talk on the basis of 'pity' and beyond the framework of The Hague Joint Declaration," Mariano said in a statement.

Tiglao himself is in the swim of the mainstream.

Detained from 1973 to 1977, he later turned to Oriental religion and carved out a career in journalism.

On top of being the spokesperson of a President who is a staunch advocate of free-market economics, he will soon be named as her chief of staff and will also help out in the Malacañang "war room" where he will focus on addressing the roots of armed conflicts in the country. *With a report from TJ Burgonio*

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Schedule of examinations at the Provincial Testing Centers:

November 9, 2002
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Ateneo de Zamboanga
Dominican School (Dagupan City)
Sacred Heart School (Tacloban City)
St. Paul College (Vigan)
San Pedro College (Davao City)

November 16, 2002
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Notre Dame of Cotabato for Girls

November 23, 2002
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Don Bosco Technical Institute (Tarlac City)
St. Paul University (Tuguegarao City)
St. Scholastica's Academy (Bacolod City)
University of La Salette (Santiago City)

November 30, 2002
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Angelicum School (Iloilo City)

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For 'killing' veggie industry, officials want BPI exec's head

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

CALLING the Bureau of Plant Industry director a technical smuggler, two provincial governors and 13 town mayors have asked the President to fire lawyer Umpar Adiong immediately.

The local officials, led by Benguet Gov. Raul Molintas and Mt. Province Gov. Sario Malinias, blamed Adiong for the massive importation of vegetables, which they claimed was killing the local vegetable industry. They accused the agency director of favoring the interest of importers instead of protecting the interest of local farmers.

The two governors, along with 13 municipal mayors of Cordillera, called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediately dismiss Adiong for alleged irregularities in importation, which they branded as technical smuggling.

Molintas noted that for August alone, the BPI under Adiong allowed the importation of some 904,000 kilos of vegetables.

105 permits

Molintas said the BPI had issued some 105 permits to imports, which include those under the general classification of "fresh vegetables and herbs."

"The local vegetable industry is dying due to the unabated influx of imported vegetables from foreign countries," the officials statement read.

Molintas said unscrupulous importers in connivance with corrupt Customs personnel and BPI quarantine inspectors have been merely paying tariff for cheap herbs like celery and pepper even though potato, carrot, broccoli, asparagus and other cash crops of farmers in the Cordillera were also among the imports.

Molintas warned that if the imports continued, the local industry will lose more than a billion pesos a year and thousands of farmers' families in Benguet and Mt. Province, Pangasinan and other vegetable-producing provinces in the country will be displaced.

Help

"The government should help us with our problems because many of our constituents are affected. If they won't help, what will we have to plant in order to live? Do they want us to plant marijuana?" Molintas said in Filipino.

Malinias echoed Molintas' sentiments, saying tons of locally produced vegetables are now beginning to rot in their provinces because of the influx of imported vegetables in the country.

The other officials who signed the statement included Mayor Nestor Fongwan and Vice Mayor Artemio Galwan of La Trinidad, and Mayors Connei Balao of Atok, Bony Tacio of Sablan, Bartolome Sacla of Bakun, Murphy Paayas of Kibungan, Mario Godio of Itogon, Jose Baluda of Tuba and Apolinario Camsol of Buguais, and board member Johnny Uy.

Law would give seniors discounts beyond death

A PROPOSED law that would expand the benefits received by senior citizens until after they pass away has been filed by Sen. Edgardo Angara.

Senate Bill 2206 would give the survivors of deceased senior citizens a 20 percent discount on burial and funeral expenses, cremation costs and the cost of burial plots and even headstones.

"Scores of senior citizens die without providing for their funeral and burial, leaving this to their next of kin to shoulder," said Angara, author of the Senior Citizens Act of 1992.

The bill also seeks to give the elderly 20 percent discounts on their water and electric bills, and exempt them from paying realty taxes and the 20 percent withholding tax on interest income from bank deposits.

Cynthia D. Balana

Envoy to address Harvard law grads

THE FIRST secretary for political affairs of the United States Embassy in Manila, Richard W. Nelson, will address Harvard Law School alumni in the Philippines on Nov. 5. He is expected to talk on the legal actions taken by the US government to deal more effectively with the problem of terrorism.

Harvard law graduates residing in the Philippines comprise the Harvard Law School Alumni Association, which is headed by Estelito P. Mendoza, concurrently president of the Association of Harvard University Alumni Clubs of Asia.

Nelson is a career member of the United States Foreign Service and has served in several countries, including China and Japan. He was a practicing attorney and a lecturer in international law. He has edited two books on international law and written numerous legal and political articles in such publications as the American Journal of International Law, International Affairs (London) and Global Issues Quarterly.

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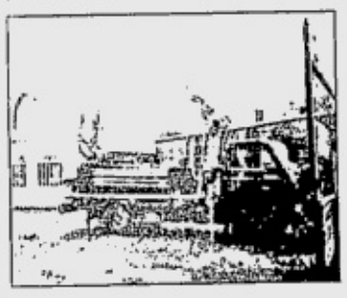

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Understanding Thyroid Diseases

by: Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco, MD, FPCP, FPSEM

Among the many disorders of endocrine function seen by an endocrinologist, thyroid diseases are one of the most common.

What is Goiter?

Goiter is defined as an enlargement of the thyroid gland.

The thyroid gland is an important organ located in the neck area. It is easy to note an abnormality of the gland because it is easily visible.

It is an important gland because it is the source of thyroid hormones which are essential for metabolism, growth and development.

When one has a goiter, one usually notes whether it is uniformly enlarged or whether there is a nodule or "bukol sa leeg".

A goiter that is usually associated with a uniform enlargement or what is called "diffuse thyromegaly" can occur when iodine is deficient in one's diet.

Thyroid nodules are also common. The concern about thyroid nodules is whether there is a cancer in the nodule. About 99% of these nodules are benign or are not malignant but the 1% risk of malignancy is important to address. An imaging procedure such as a thyroid scan may be done to determine whether the nodule is cold or hot. Another imaging procedure called the thyroid ultrasound may be done to check if it is cystic or solid. Malignancy is more often noted in solid and cold nodules. Therefore when we see these nodules, the important step is to do a fine needle aspiration biopsy, a procedure that aspirates a few drops of thyroid material for investigation under the microscope. This allows determination of whether the nodule is malignant or not.

So what does one need to do when one has a goiter? Consult your doctor so that a proper evaluation can be carried out.

How can we prevent goiter? It is essential to take in adequate amounts of iodine to prevent iodine deficiency that can lead to a goiter. Use iodized salt instead of regular salt. Foods rich in iodine include seafoods and to a lesser extent milk, eggs and meat. These should be part of one's regular diet. Prevention is important for everyone especially if there is any member of the family with a similar condition.

In summary, goiter is a condition that can lead to large unsightly neck masses and carries a risk for malignancy. Prevention and early detection of these abnormalities is therefore essential.

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Program of Activities

8:00 - 8:30	Registration
8:30 - 8:45	Opening National Anthem Invocation - Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca Welcome Remarks - Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco
Symposium 1	**Special Problems in the Management of Thyroid Disorders** Moderator: *Dr. Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr.*
8:45 - 9:30	*Complex Case Challenge:* Patient with Slightly Elevated TSH Lecture: Subclinical Hypothyroidism *- Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua*
9:30 - 10:15	*Complex Case Challenge:* Patient with Positive Thyroglobulin and Negative Whole Body Scan Lecture: Management of Differentiated Thyroid Cancer: What's New? *- Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan*
10:15 - 10:45	Open Forum / Coffee Break / Visit Exhibits
Plenary Lecture	Chair: Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy
10:45 - 11:30	Thyroid Disorders in Pregnancy and Postpartum *- Dr. Arie Berghout, Netherlands*
11:30 - 11:45	Open Forum
12:00- 1:30	**Lunch Symposium** - Organon Philippines, Inc. Medical Management of Hyperthyroidism *- Dr. Cynthia H. Manabat*
1:30 - 2:30	**Meet-the-Professor Sessions** (simultaneous sessions) a. Clinical Approach to Thyroid Hormone Therapy *- Dr. Joselynna Añel-Quimpo* b. Thyroid Diseases and Pregnancy *- Dr. Cynthia Chua-Ho* c. Weird Thyroid Function Tests *- Dr. Laura Trajano-Acampado*
2:30 - 2:45	Coffee Break / Visit Exhibits
Symposium 2	**Emerging Strategies for Managing CVS Diseases in Patients with Thyroid Dysfunction** Moderator: *Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang*
2:45 - 3:30	*Complex Case Challenge:* Patient with Low TSH *Lecture:* Subclinical Hyperthyroidism and CVS Disease Risk *- Dr. Elizabeth Paz - Pacheco*
3:30 - 4:15	*Complex Case Challenge:* Elderly Patient with Hypothyroidism *Lecture:* The Management of Thyroid Disorders in the Elderly *- Dr. Arie Berghout, Netherlands*
4:15- 4:30	Open Forum / Closing

Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca
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OPINION

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Coming unstuck

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT George W. Bush is strapped in a bind as he presses the United Nations to approve a tough US-sponsored resolution to disarm Iraq while another rouge state, North Korea, rejects diplomatic pressure calling on Pyongyang to stop its nuclear weapons development program.

Iraq and North Korea now loom as menacing threats with their growing capability to unleash weapons of mass destruction after the disclosure last month that Pyongyang was going ahead with a project to enrich uranium to develop atomic weapons.

And yet Washington is so obsessed with the disarming of Iraq that it cannot seek to open a second front in Bush's war on international terrorism without spreading its military resources thinly and undermining its effort to broaden its coalition in the war on Iraq. The unwelcome prospects of fighting the war on not only two but three fronts invite military disaster. They also pose the danger of opening a larger conflict in the Middle East and in Asia. The question has been raised: Why is Bush so afraid of President Saddam Hussein when North Korea is as much a clear and present danger after it has admitted it has missiles and nuclear warheads and is building its nuclear arsenal further?

The United States cannot now seek a UN mandate to go to war with North Korea to dismantle its nuclear weapons. Such a move would clutter the US-sponsored resolution in the UN Security Council, where it has been stalled for six weeks already by the determined opposition of France, Russia and China to its proposal that it be authorized to attack Iraq automatically if it fails to comply with a new round of more stringent UN inspection of Iraq's weapons facility and installations.

North Korea has defied international calls for an end to its nuclear weapons program, saying that it was entitled to weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent against US aggression. In its approach toward the Iraqi and North Korean threat of possessing weapons of mass destruction, the United States is being twisted by the inconsistency of its responses. On North Korea, it has used Japan to exert diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang while the two countries were having talks on the normalization of their relations. The talks centered on the issue of Japanese nationals kidnapped by North Korea. The talks were complicated by Korea's admission of its clandestine uranium-enrichment program. The United States has put pressure on Japan to persuade Kim Jong-il to end the build-up of his nuclear arsenal. Japan's warning to the Koreans that it would not consider granting aid to North Korea's battered economy unless it abandoned its program only angered Pyongyang and set back the normalization talks.

The larger picture in the failure of diplomatic efforts to respond to two threats—one at the Security Council on Iraq, and the other in the use of Japan as the point person on North Korea—is that the United States' role, aggressively pursued by the Bush administration, of acting as an international gendarme to counter the threat of international terrorism, whether it is of the al-Qaida, Saddam or Kim Jong-il variety, in the post Cold-War international order is coming unstuck.

This war-like posture, driven by the US determination to make foreign policy decisions unilaterally rather than seeking consensus, is not only encountering increasing resistance even among its own allies, which gave its coalition broad support in the Gulf War. Its diplomatic effort, using Japan as a bridge to North Korea, has been unsuccessful and, more importantly, has increased tensions between the two countries. Its diplomatic offensive and pressure on the Security Council have backfired. No matter how militarily powerful the United States is, Bush is forced to work out a mandate to attack Iraq within the framework of the United Nations. He is biting off more than he could digest. The key issue in the Security Council debate has now boiled down to a few words which are not merely technical constructions. The issue is whether the United States can attack Iraq if the new UN inspection fails, with the United States, not the Council, determining whether the inspection has failed. The United States also reserves for itself the right when to attack, with or without another UN authority. If the United Nations gives Bush the unilateral mandate to invade Iraq, an attack on North Korea as a member of the "axis of evil" defined by Bush cannot be far behind.

Fernando's true grit

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I AM among the many members of the silent majority who support the efforts of MMDA chief Bayani Fernando to clean up Metro Manila. His record so far has been commendable and beyond the usual pessimism that a new broom sweeps clean.

His current campaign to clear the public sidewalks of all illegal obstructions is a laudable project that clearly distinguishes him from his predecessors. The latter were conveniently appointed to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority because they were barred from seeking reelection to a fourth term. They were simply hibernating while waiting to be qualified again for their accustomed offices.

Compared to their humdrum record, Fernando's performance promises to be as successful as his administration of Marikina City when he was its three-term mayor. It was in fact his accomplishments in vastly improving his city that led to his appointment as chair of the MMDA. It is one of the better-received acts of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

There was a time when the whole of Plaza Miranda in Manila was occupied by hawkers and vendors who converted it into a massive flea market. It was hardly passable to pedestrians and vehicles until Arsenio H. Lacson was elected mayor. He lost no time in expelling the intrusive peddlers and restoring the place as a public plaza.

During the administration of Mayor Antonio Villegas, a big portion of Intramuros was occupied by squatters who dirtied the place and made it a hotbed of crime and immorality. Passing through that blighted area was a clear and present danger until the gutsy Tony entered the lion's den and cleansed the slums.

The acts of those two mayors required a lot of grit, but they did not hesitate to dare the lawless people's rage. They were in grave danger of their lives when they actually mixed with the lawbreakers and angrily scolded them. The offenders' threatened violence never came; in fact, they meekly accepted their chastisement. Arsenic and Yeba boldly did their job because they knew it had to be done.

When Fernando commenced his drive against the vendors who had illegally occupied the sidewalks in Divisoria, he became their top tyrant. The vendors called him a fascist, burned him in effigy, and continue to demand his removal from the MMDA for being hostile to the poor. Fortunately, their demonstrations have not daunted Fernando or earned public support.

The vendors' foolish argument is that Fernando should not drive them away from the sidewalks because they are poor and cannot afford to rent market stalls. Their remedy, they say, is to occupy the public sidewalks where they can run their small businesses for free. That is the only way they can compete with the prosperous vendors in the market stalls and survive in the demanding task of earning a living.

Being poor is not an excuse for breaking the law. Many jeepney drivers who violate traffic rules and cause personal injuries and damage to properties often plead in their defense that they are just trying to make a living. *"Naghahanapbuhay lamang naman ang tao!"* That feeble explanation, intoned plaintively or blurted belligerently, is certainly no license for wrongdoing.

If it were, then every lawbreaker can invoke it to proclaim his poverty as a badge of innocence. The embezzler, the thief, the kidnapper, the falsifier, the hired killer, the hold-upper, and all manner of scalawags can claim immunity from prosecution and punishment on the specious ground that their offenses are part of their chosen career. "I rob banks to earn my living," the accused will say, "because I am poor."

In the case of PLDT v. NLRC, 164 SCRA 471, which I wrote, the Supreme Court stressed:

"The policy of social justice is not intended to countenance wrongdoing simply because it was committed by the underprivileged. At best, it may mitigate the penalty but it certainly will not condone the offense. Compassion for the poor is an imperative in every humane society but only when the recipient is not a rascal claiming an undeserved privilege. Social justice cannot be permitted to be the refuge of scoundrels....Those who invoke social justice may do so only if their hands are clean and their motives blameless and not simply because they happen to be poor."

Condoning the acts of the Divisoria sidewalk vendors would promote disrespect for the law, the deterioration of peace and order, and the beginning of an incipient anarchy. For doing his duty, Bayani Fernando deserves not obloquy but sincere praise.

Depth, not height. . .

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THERE used to stand outside my room a tall acacia tree. It occupied a prominent space in our seminary grounds and was often the subject of conversation and admiration of many passersby because of its wide branches and lofty stature. Two years ago, a powerful typhoon felled this once proud tree to the ground. It literally crawls now on the earth. That which was once tall and mighty is now a humble lowly tree.

* * *

The Gospel today (Mt. 23, 1-12) speaks about the humbling of oneself, and becoming a servant of all. The Gospel reiterates the importance of humble service and not lofty positions of power if we are to be pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Jesus further cautions people who love to be seen and acknowledged by all while they themselves are false, rotten and empty deep inside. Externally they are impressive, but internally they are deceptive, like the tall acacia tree outside my room that fell because it was not deeply rooted. Such is the fate of people who build high, but do not dig deep. Are you deeply rooted? Are you ready to withstand the typhoons and storms of life? Are you overly concerned of externals? Are you playing the game of make-believe and deception? Forget it. It's a losing game, for when you fool others, you fool yourself as well. There is nothing hidden that will not be revealed.

* * *

Actually, the acacia tree was not bad. It meant well. In fact, it served a lot of people. But its problem was that it was more focused on building high rather than on digging deep. And precisely because of that, it soon got involved in the game of pride, deceit and make-believe. We all, especially those who lead, should learn from the acacia tree. A leader who does not have depth can bring so much suffering, confusion and even havoc in people's lives. Without depth, we end up with people who, in Gandhi's words, have "wealth without work, knowledge without character, commerce without morality, science without humanity, worship without sacrifice and politics without principles."

* * *

There is a beautiful ending in the story of the fallen acacia tree. It did not die. It is still alive. Not lofty and proud now, but closer to the earth, and more stable. Yes, it is now more grounded and more rooted. This is a beautiful story of hope, that indeed, there is life even after the fall, that God does not give up on us, and that we can become better persons if we learn from our mistakes. Yes, God oftentimes teaches us our lessons in life the hard way. That's because we do not listen to Him, especially when we are "up there." Remember that no one stays "up there" forever. Everything is passing. Earthly power, fame and glory are all fleeting. Nothing lasts forever. What matters most in the end is that we loved at all.

* * *

"What I was, you are. What I am now you will be." As we remember our departed relatives and friends on All Souls' Day, may they remind us again that life is short, that we carry nothing with us when we go and that our final destination is to go back to the Heavenly Father at the end of our lives. May they remind us again that we are still alive because our mission is not yet accomplished on this earth. May they further remind us that our mission on this earth is not just to become famous, rich and comfortable. Our mission is to love God, love others and live a meaningful life. Finally, may the dead remind us to love and to express our love to the people God has given to us now, while they are still alive. Yes, love them now and express your love and appreciation for them now, not later, not when they are already dead and buried.

* * *

I had the privilege of visiting Wadovice, Poland, the hometown of Pope John Paul II, recently. What an experience it was to see the humble beginnings of this great man who has remained humble in spite of the heights he has soared to. Why? That's because he has depth. That's because he sees position as a life mission, not a personal ambition. It is my ardent prayer that more and more of our socio-political and religious leaders will see their positions more and more as a life mission, and not as a personal ambition.

* * *

"Time is passing, eternity is waiting." These are the words inscribed on the walls of the Catholic Church in Wadovice which Pope John Paul II could read from his room which, people say, inspired him so much to live a beautiful and meaningful life. May we all continue to live meaningful lives. May we all go for more depth rather than height while we are still alive so that at the end of our lives, we can achieve the highest of all heights—heaven, and avoid the deepest of all depths—hell. Yes, dig deep now while you are still alive, so that you can go high when you die.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me to be lowly, so that I can be loving and holy and be with you in Heaven someday. Amen.

The police and public trust

COMMENTARY

Junefe G. Payot
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THE RECENT spate of kidnappings and bombings prompted my French-speaking Canadian housemate to ask me what he should do when he finds himself in those situations. I repeated to him my advice when he first arrived here a year ago: to seek the help of the police only as a last resort. His reaction then was, *"C'est tres horrible* (That's so horrible)!" My succinct reply was *"Oui, mais c'est comme ca* (Yes, but it's like that)." It's always fun to talk to him in French but it wasn't fun to have to tell him that in the Philippines, our policemen are not to be trusted. It really hurt my pride as a Filipino. And I felt guilty not only because one of my closest friends is a policeman but also because I might have given the Philippines a bad name.

I may have done that but the police themselves had done that a long time ago. More than five years ago, I overheard two middle-aged Japanese men in the LRT talking in Japanese—thinking no one would understand them, but I did—about police extortion activities here. I felt ashamed then. I still do.

In fact, I had to swallow my pride when I warned my housemate about policemen in the Philippines. But he is my friend and his safety is more important to me than my pride as a Filipino. Besides, I was sure he would soon find out about it himself—whether through a personal experience or through other people. So it had better come from me so he could not accuse me of not warning him. And sure enough, a group of policemen extorted money from him on his second month here.

But it was the candid admission of Philippine National Police chief Hermogenes Ebdane a few weeks ago to "not trust just any cop" that released me from my guilt. I was right to warn my friend against our policemen. But at the same time, the PNP chief's admission sent a chill down my spine. It's public knowledge that many policemen are involved in various crimes but to hear it come from the PNP top brass himself sent a very clear message: we cannot trust the police. Of course, not all policemen are rotten. There are probably more good ones than bad ones. But it's difficult to distinguish which is which. Better stay away from all of them than be sorry. It's true. Just look at the many cases of police brutality, rubout, police-run drug trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom.

And look at the many blunders they have committed. How many times have they paraded the wrong suspects? Even the President wasn't spared. Many times, she was the victim of *kuryente*, the journalistic parlance used to describe a situation where wrong information is given. And on national television at that! The recent blunder was the presentation of an Abu Sayyaf suspect whose identity the intelligence agents had gotten wrong. Mark Bolkerin Gumabahale was supposed to be Abu Pula, one of the top commanders of the Abu Sayyaf with a P5-million price on his head. But the real Abu Pula is still at large.

And here's more: a study by a professor at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila revealed that more than half of the Metro Manila policemen he interviewed did not know the basics of criminal investigation. This is alarming. Ineptitude should be added to the list of criminal acts. But then, we might run out of space in our already crowded jails.

In spite of this, the government wants to increase their salary and hire some more of them presumably to better fight terrorism. The 2003 budget proposal allotted "P855 million for 5,000 new policemen, jail guards and firemen." It has also "provided a total of P2.1 billion for the increase of salaries of the PNP and for the 4,000 new policemen recruited and mobilized on July 1, 2002." It is "also providing P42.5 billion to the Department of National Defense." A part of which is meant to "strengthen combat operations and reinforce intelligence and support services."

Of course, the fight against terrorism is important. No one disputes that. In fact, people like me who used to hate being frisked in malls and train stations now willingly submit to inspection. But the police ranks have to be cleaned up first. Or else, the government, by giving the PNP a bigger budget and more policemen, might just be strengthening a legal terrorist group in its aim to fight the terrorists. When the terrorists are gone, we might just continue to suffer from government-sanctioned police terrorism.

Police authorities have called on the people to cooperate. However, not everyone is willing to and they cannot be blamed. People will only cooperate if they feel that they can trust the police.

After all, haven't the policemen been acting like terrorists themselves for a long time? I remember a song by the alternative rock group Yano, (in the heydays of alternative music a few years ago, when rock songs were the best and most vocal—literally and figuratively—social commentaries) that went *"Anong gagawin mo pag may pulis sa may likuran mo?/ Tumakbo na kayo! Tumakbo na kayo*(What would you do if there's a police behind you?/ You better run! Run)!" The band was sued by the PNP for tarnishing its name. As if it wasn't already tarnished.

The fight against terrorism is crucial for the nation and for the PNP, too. Now is the chance for the members of our police force to redeem themselves and regain the respect, trust and cooperation of the people. But that can only happen if they do their work well and rid their ranks of criminal elements.

Otherwise, people will only distrust them for eternity. And that would be *tres horrible!*

Isreaeli left-wing scrambles to survive

TEL AVIV—The Israeli Labor Party joined Ariel Sharon's government last year hoping to rein in the strong-willed leader from taking too tough a stance on a Palestinian uprising and digging up the track to peace.

Now many Labor activists fear the aging general may be driving them on to their own political demise.

Ahead of party primaries set for Nov. 19, center-left Labor is scrambling to find a new message for an Israeli public which no longer subscribes to its once-rosy view of Middle East peacemaking after two years of violence.

FEATURE

Michele Gershberg

Labor's image crisis came to a head this week, when party leader and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer threatened to pull out of the government after a vote on the 2003 state budget on Wednesday, hoping to patch up his appeal to left-wing voters by opposing allocations to Jewish settlements.

At stake is the outcome of a general election due in up to a year's time which could reconfigure Israel's political map, lawmakers and political scientists said.

If Labor fails to find a suitable platform, the party which once held a decades-long monopoly over government could be split from within and lose broadly to its peers to the left and right.

"What will happen in the left-wing depends on what happens within Labor," Haim Ramon, one of three candidates for the party's leadership, told Reuters in an interview.

Ramon is a long-time Labor moderate who opposed its entry into right-wing Likud leader Sharon's government. His views put him roughly between his rivals: the hawkish Ben-Eliezer, and Amram Mitzna, the dovish mayor of the northern city of Haifa.

"If Fuad (Ben-Eliezer) is elected, apparently there will be a new social democratic party, there will be serious changes in the political map and Labor could become the third or fourth largest party in terms of size," Ramon said.

He was referring to nascent plans by Israel's main opposition Meretz party, long a bastion of the country's left-wing elites, to broaden its ranks into a social-democratic faction that could draw some of Labor's disaffected doves.

"Many people may move in the direction of Meretz, so there is a potential for a transfer of votes from Labor both to the right and the left," said political scientist Avraham Diskin.

"At the same time, there are many people...who have an allergic reaction to the right-wing and regardless of the mistakes the left makes, they are still tied to it," he said.

Labor's doves have been at bitter odds with their party since it joined Sharon's government. Some, like Yossi Beilin, were architects of the Israeli-Palestinian peace accords in the 1990s and view Sharon's tactics as a sure way to crush their efforts to resolve 54 years of conflict.

Their rancor is also directed at Ben-Eliezer and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the living symbol of Israel's left, for allowing Sharon to draw on the international legitimacy Labor earned as peacemakers as he sent troops into Palestinian cities and besieged their one-time negotiating partner, Yasser Arafat.

Israeli forces mounted those operations following Palestinian suicide bombings that killed dozens of people and shifted the public mood in Israel to the right.

"I have a feeling that he (Sharon) thinks of the Labor Party like the sheep on his farm," said Ramon at a party convention late last month.

"We are a government of mutes, following the track made by Sharon the shepherd, keeping silent. Everybody knows the end of the sheep on Sharon's farm. I don't want that end for Labor." Support for Labor has dropped even further since its last electoral defeat in February 2001, when Prime Minister Ehud Barak was trounced by Sharon after failing to clinch a peace deal with the Palestinians in mid-2000.

The bloodshed that had ensued caught many Israelis by surprise and led them to accuse Barak and Labor of underestimating the readiness of the Palestinians to resort to violence in a drive toward statehood.

That image has yet to fade during Sharon's tenure and the Likud leader remains widely popular, even as violence intensifies and a domestic recession deepens.

An October survey by Israeli pollster TNS Teleseker for Army Radio showed Likud, with Sharon at its head, sweeping the next election with up to 46 percent of the vote in contrast to a maximum 20 percent for Labor, depending on who is chosen as leader.

The poll surveyed 500 Israelis, with up to 18 percent of those questioned saying they had yet to choose a favored party.

Likud's hold on the 120-member parliament would be further buttressed by religious and Russian immigrant parties which tend to side with its right-wing policies.

Labor is currently parliament's largest party with 25 seats compared with Likud's 19.

"You cannot fix the Labor Party today," Meretz chair and opposition leader Yossi Sarid told Reuters. "I have seen too many (political) resurrections in Israel to say it is dead...but it is a ruined party and our aim is to replace it."

Labor's advocacy of a return to peace negotiations finds little favor among Israelis as the uprising rages, despite a general consensus in favor of a Palestinian state in most of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

As a result, its candidates are struggling to identify the policies they can offer in the interim.

Ben-Eliezer's gamble appears aimed at shoring up his internal party ratings, where he trails as the least favored candidate for the primaries, by homing in on left-wing support for dismantling Jewish settlements on occupied land.

Ben-Eliezer has called for a return to peace talks, but rejected a dialogue with Arafat and launched a project to build a security fence along the West Bank's border with Israel, a barrier which he insisted does not mark any permanent boundary.

But while in government, he acted largely in agreement with Sharon's approach to crushing the uprising, so much so that critics had dubbed him leader of "Likud Two." Mitzna, whose port city of Haifa is arguably the most integrated community of Arabs and Jews in Israel, has emerged as a surprise front-runner in recent polls.

His stance swings farthest to the left, calling for immediate peace talks with the Palestinians and a unilateral pull out from most of the West Bank and Gaza if they fail.

Ramon backs a troop withdrawal and the evacuation of Jewish settlements but for security reasons would limit the scope of the pullback to 85 percent of the occupied territories under the assumption "that there is no partner" now for peace talks.

Political scientists note that Labor's dire fortunes could turn dramatically if the Palestinian uprising ended, in which case most Israelis would push for a settlement of the conflict.

Otherwise, even a rehabilitated Labor would remain a junior partner in the next government likely to be built by Sharon.

"As long as (Palestinian) terror is the main factor in politics, the public will view Sharon as a man who appears to know how to deal with terror better," said Sarid.

"He is a general, he has a history of perpetual war with the Arabs and he is identified with power. The fact that he deals with it terribly and that during his term terror has been the most murderous is another story altogether." *Reuters*

Harmony begins with understanding

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN THE PUBLISHED proceedings of the roundtable discussion on culture and terrorism held early this year, Julkipli Wadi, an assistant professor and college secretary of the Institute of Islamic Studies of UP, traces the route of Muslim insurgency in Mindanao.

"(T)he Philippine experience in the art of nation-building and state-building in Mindanao for more than 50 years and beyond explains most of the misunderstanding about Islam in the Philippines, the Muslims, their history and culture," writes Wadi. "It also explains the failure of the Government in providing the appropriate institutions for the Muslims that would guarantee their survival, development and prosperity as a people. For, if Philippine Governments were successful, there would have been no need for Muslims to rebel and to secede as chain-like movements which continue to emerge, challenging the Government since the '50s until the present. Lately, Muslim Mindanao witnessed the worsening of the situation when Muslim groups, mostly youth, (believing) to be working for a legitimate cause, reconfigured the traditional struggle of their elders by engaging in what the Government believes as terrorism, hence applying the adage 'one nation's terrorist is another nation's freedom fighter.' For these youth, according to themselves, are just calibrating an unconventional strategy meriting (albeit debatable) the intransigence of the Government to give what is due to Muslims. Yet, due to the unacceptability of the method of their struggle, instead of reforming Muslim society, their action becomes a form of self-flagellation as destruction of lives and properties continues to impact heavily on Muslim places. In turn, Mindanao becomes a playing ground of those who want to conduct their dirty games appearing in many forms."

* * *

IN HIS paper on "Terrorism and Culture," now Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus asserts that the national dialogue between and among Christians and Muslims cannot begin unless "the constituent components of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious society...come to a greater understanding of each other." As a "basic step," De Jesus quotes Islamic scholar and politician Michael Mastura who believes there is need to "eliminate the stereotypes about Islam and Islamic believers that may still survive in history textbooks. Competent credible Muslim scholars must lead this effort."

Both Christians and Muslims, De Jesus says, must also come to understand the diversity among various streams of Islam (as true also with Christianity or Buddhism). "Some variants are distinctly less tolerant of other beliefs and less able to accommodate the growing demands of globally interconnected societies for greater individual freedoms and opportunities. Christians should learn to appreciate the rich diversity within Islam and the efforts of Islamic societies to reconcile religion and modernity. So should the Muslims."

For starters, says De Jesus, the government could sponsor or at least help arrange the visits to the Philippines of Muslim religious leaders, scholars and public intellectuals "who can effectively articulate the noble aspirations of Muslim society."

The Macapagal administration, he adds, "cannot now escape the responsibility for redressing the failure of national government in addressing the problems of the Muslim community, with the Christians to be sure, with the national bureaucracies certainly, but also with their own Muslim leaders."

* * *

MEDIA certainly play a part in the framing of this "dialogue," especially since their images, reportage and commentary are often the only basis for ordinary people to form their opinions and attitudes about the changing realities.

Many Filipinos, for instance, understand "terrorism" only in the context of the Abu Sayyaf, the MRT bombings, 9/11 and Bali. When the premises are laid out only by way of shocking images of carnage and bloodshed, of footage of angry, screaming mobs, and of tearful survivors, opinions about the causes of terrorism cannot but be polarized and simplified.

In the Oct. 28 issue of Time magazine, for instance, a special section on the bombings in Bali carried an essay by Karim Raslan, a Malaysian lawyer and writer, extolling the virtues of moderation and religious tolerance among the Muslims of Southeast Asia.

Raslan writes of the scholars and religious leaders in the region, but especially in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim nation, who have chosen to take up the task of "questioning, self-criticism and renewal" and have "the confidence to debate and confront their own ultra-conservative co-religionists on anything from jihad to women's rights."

* * *

CONTRAST this benign view of the "moderate Muslim majority" with an accompanying article in the same issue titled "The Rage Culture," carrying the provocative subhead: "Why does a moderate Islamic nation harbor terrorists and serve as a hotbed for religious extremists?"

While Raslan highlights the fact that 70 million of Indonesia's Muslims belong to just two Islamic organizations—the Muhammadiyah and the Nahdlatul Uama—both of which are engaged in philanthropy and dedicated to upholding and propagating Islamic values, the article and another sidebar chose to focus on the more extreme, but much smaller, militant organizations mouthing anti-Western, anti-American sentiments.

The writer could not, apparently, appreciate what he calls "Indonesians' apparent tolerance of extremists, or their ambiguous attitudes towards the West." As if in this world of complex issues and nuanced politics, there is no room for ambivalence or tolerance.

Iraq and the war on terror

COMMENTARY

Hinden P. Barredo

THE EXPLOSIONS that ripped through Bali reopened an old rift and clarified the disconnect between the reactions from anti-terrorism and from anti-anti-terrorism. Bush saw the assault as a confirmation for a broader war on terror that includes disarming Iraq while the opposition saw otherwise. Bali points away from the necessity of regime change and toward a limited war, says the INQUIRER editorial last Oct. 16. It "contradicts Bush's charge" if the Bali terrorists acted independently, says Amando Doronila while Conrado de Quiros simply dismisses Bali as the "political fallout to our war-mongering"—a predictable and deserved response to the victims.

The same opposition now calling for a limited war, however, was also against it in the first place. Its past objections to the war in Afghanistan foreshadowed the cost everyone pays now for supporting the war and are best expressed in De Quiros' words, "We've always acted as though our uncritical and aggressive adoption of Bush's war-mongering would not produce any consequences for us." But once again, De Quiros' consequence belies his cause for Indonesia was not an "uncritical and aggressive" warmonger but a pacifist criticized by its neighboring states for its "laxity toward terrorism." Even the editor and Doronila both acknowledge this. Therefore, at least in so far as Bali is invoked and quite contrary to De Quiros, Indonesia paid a price not because it supported the war against terrorism but because it didn't do enough to support it.

So why Bali? Indonesia wasn't a warmonger. More importantly, very few of the victims, if any, were Americans. In an anglicized version of "All Orientals look alike," De Quiros suggests that all Westerners look alike. Therefore all Westerners look like Americans. Thus, Indonesia was attacked for its war on terrorism, although it didn't wage it, and the Western tourists were murdered for looking like Americans. If De Quiros is right, he is terribly unconvincing because Bali doesn't support that neutrality would exempt us from the retaliation by an enemy that bombs a neutral nation anyway and does not differentiate between Americans and other Westerners, or between its enemy and its friend.

The question is not whether there is a price to pay for war or not, but whether this war is worth paying for. Support for war does not rest on the illusion that there will be no civilian casualties but on the recognition that more lives will be lost if we acquiesced. On the other hand, terrorism or anti-anti-terrorism, according to De Quiros, is "everywhere in the world that resents not what America stands for but what America has done to it." Corollarily, opposition to a US-led war is fueled by what America stands for because of what it has done, regardless of what was done to it today for it is merely the consequence of what it has done to someone else in the past. All terrorist or anti-anti-terrorist acts against the United States today must therefore be seen under the light of the United States' actions in the past. And so, the United States must almost never be right because it has been so wrong. But De Quiros goes even farther beyond that—the terrorists must also almost always never be wrong because it is a resistance to injustice. Thus, even the attack against non-American Westerners in Bali must still be a blow against US imperialism for the terrorists had the Americans in mind at the time of the attack. In other words, their intent was correct even if the effect was wrong.

De Quiros sees this as a grim reminder of the unfairness of war, of the unavoidable loss of civilian lives. What he doesn't see is that there was no war in Bali, that the civilian lives were not collateral damage but the targets themselves. De Quiros doesn't see that the death of the tourists was very easily avoidable and was in fact deliberate, that this was not a resistance against US oppression but an oppression on its own which necessitates military resistance. Instead, the response he offers to prevent similar further attacks is inaction and appeasement. Bali was a grim reminder, yes, but not of the costs of fighting but of timidity in the face of terror, of unwillingness to stand against violence.

The explosions in Bali occurred after the US Congress authorized force on Iraq and on the second anniversary of the attack on the USS Cole. Indeed, there isn't a conclusive link yet between Bali and Iraq. But it doesn't have to. The whole rationale for a global war on terror is premised on the asymmetrical nature of a global terrorist network that operated autonomously through independent cells and therefore must necessarily extend beyond Afghanistan. Thus, regime change and disarmament in Iraq, far from detraction, are rather the logical continuation of the war on terror that is more urgent with an Iraq-Bali connection but is not less urgent without for the weight of its own reasons.

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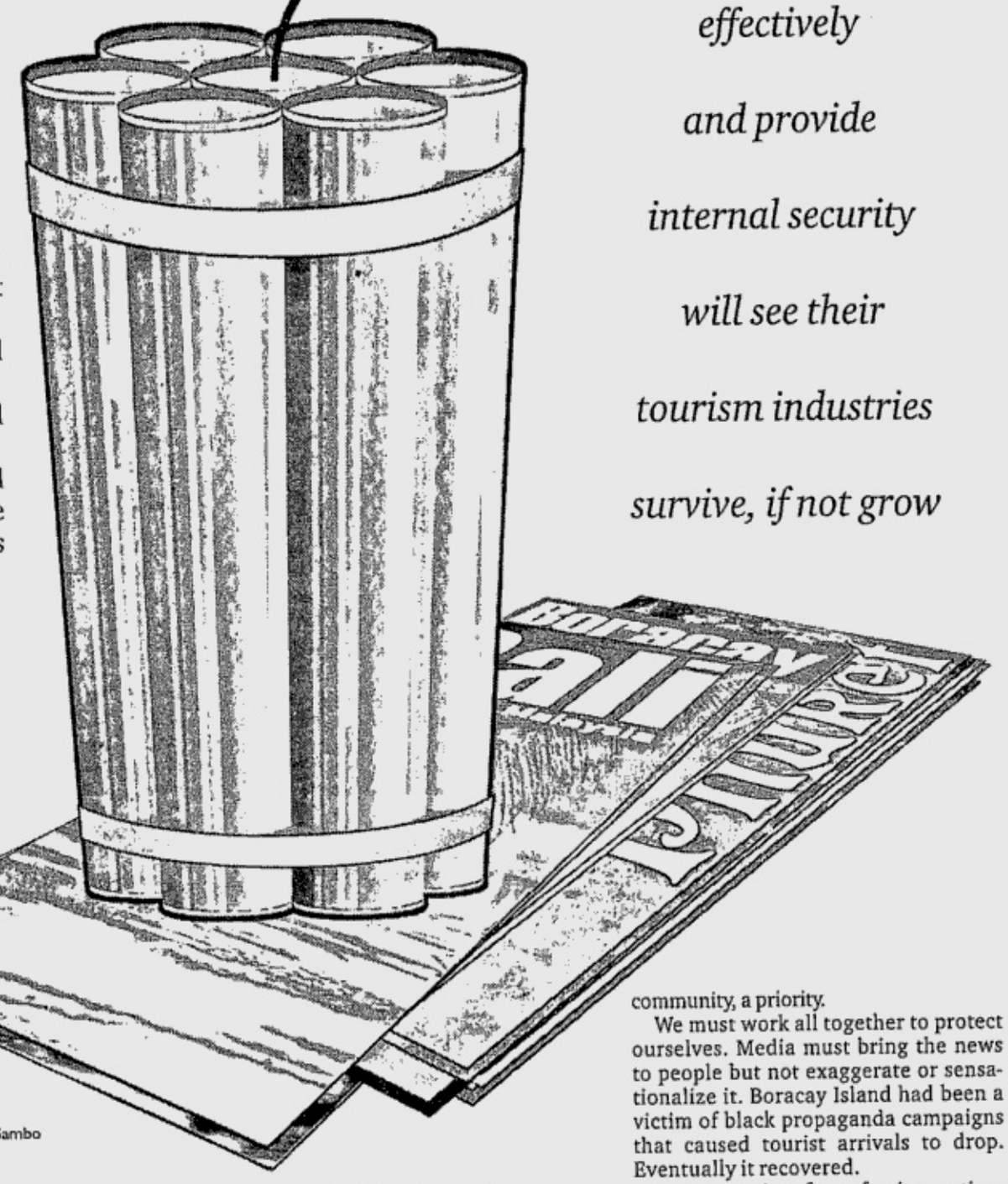
TALK *of the* TOWN

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Can the tourism industry survive the terrorist attacks

The whole world is facing threats from terrorists. But countries which promote tourism effectively and provide internal security will see their tourism industries survive, if not grow



Graphic Illustration & Page Design: Ernie Sambo

THE TOURISM secretary spoke too soon that the country could attract tourists who had cancelled plans to visit the Indonesian island resort of Bali because of the Oct. 12 bombing that claimed the lives of some 190 people, mostly foreigners.

Days after the bombing, three explosions rocked Zamboanga City and Metro Manila, killing 11.

The bomb scare spooked prospective visitors. Among them were the Oasis rock band, which cancelled its concert in Manila last month. Representatives of the Guinness Book of World Records, who were supposed to examine the world's biggest footwear built by Marikina's shoemakers, were also a no show.

The blasts prompted countries like Japan, the United States, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain to advise their citizens of the dangers of visiting the Philippines.

As a result, local airlines are carrying fewer foreign visitors. Resorts on Boracay Island are also feeling the crunch. Some of them have cut down operations to stay afloat.

Despite the difficulties; tourism industry players expressed confidence that they could weather the storm, saying that the bombings pale in comparison to the Abu Sayyaf hostage -taking in 2000 and 2001. By assuring visitors of their safety and promoting the country's destinations effectively, they expect the industry to survive, if not grow.

'The industry will survive'

By Goody Directo
Manager, tariffs and industry affairs
Air Philippines

THE TERRORIST attacks will affect us because more foreign travelers are thinking twice about coming to the Philippines.

We need to boost domestic travel to compensate for the decrease in foreign travelers coming into the country.

At the moment, we are enjoying a high load factor. In the last two weeks, the number of domestic passengers increased due to the semestral break and the All Saints' Day holidays.

As for foreign passengers, group bookings from Korea for Kalibo and Puerto Princesa have started to decrease. We were hoping that these groups would serve as buffers for the first quarter of 2003. I recently had a talk with one of the executives of a prime hotel in Cebu who told me that they received a lot of group cancellations not only for this month but also for January and up to May 2003.

Let's look at it optimistically. The Philippines has 7,100 beautiful islands. The bombings are happening in about five areas in the country. That leaves tourists, both local and foreign, 7,000 plus islands more to enjoy.

Definitely our tourism industry will survive no matter what, but the better question is, how can we sustain our growth amid the terrorism and threats of violence?

We need a change in mindset. Whatever effort the government does to promote our tourism overseas will not help sustain our tourism's growth if there is no change in the mindset of Filipinos.

First, we need to show foreigners that we are indeed a friendly and peaceful people. We need to change the perception that Filipinos are cheaters or violent.

Those who come in contact with foreigners, particularly the frontline people such as taxi drivers, porters and shopping mall staff need to show the good side of the Filipino. Each positive act of a Filipino helps build a good image of the country.

Second, we should learn to appreciate our own country. Rather than spend money on overseas travels, why not explore the wonders and beauty of the Philippines?

We have a lot of beautiful places that are under-appreciated even by us. If many Filipinos know our country well, then they themselves can help promote our tourism industry to their foreign friends and colleagues and relatives abroad.

If most Filipinos travel within the country, they would greatly boost the economy. Whenever people travel to a particular place, they spend some money on food, land transportation, *pasalubong*, etc. This will stir up business in that area, from the small fruit stand by the road or the big plush hotel in the city.

Travel will also educate us about our own culture and history and allow us to appreciate the value of tourism, the value of our own country.

How's the peso depreciation affecting our business? Our income from our domestic operations is in pesos but a lot of our costs are in dollars. One good example is the spare parts of the aircraft, which are being bought outside the country.

The airfares in the Philippines are considered one of the lowest globally but because of the diminishing purchasing power of the peso, these are perceived as high by locals. Recently, we had a minor adjustment in our fares due to the decline of the peso. Despite this, we are still subsidizing the fares for the benefit of the riding public.

As much as we can, we are doing all possible measures to soften the blow to our passengers but if the pressure of the decline of the peso significantly affects our bottom line, then we have to adjust our fares again.

'Make travelers feel safe in the places they visit'

By Rita Sanson
Vice president, sales and marketing
Pearl of the Pacific, Boracay

MANY travelers have become paranoid and decided to cancel their reservations because of the bombings and threats of violence. Some of our clients, too, began worrying about their plans to visit Boracay.

The fear of moving around freely suddenly became an issue for families and friends. To top it all, there seems to be no place in the Philippines or in other parts of the world safe to be at.

Then there are advisories telling citizens of countries not to proceed to the Philippines. We had cancellations due to the travel advisories issued by Australia and other countries. It did affect the Boracay's tourism industry-fewer people, most especially foreigners, are traveling.

Some resorts have had to shut down some areas of operation to reduce expenses and to stay afloat. But Boracay, in spite of this, I think will fare just fine.

For as long as security is strengthened and more prayers are said to God for our country's protection, the Philippines will fare well.

The only way the tourism industry can survive amid the terrorism and threats of violence is by beefing up our security and making local and foreign travelers feel safe.

We have to make all precautionary security measures, initiated by the government with the cooperation of the local community, a priority.

We must work all together to protect ourselves. Media must bring the news to people but not exaggerate or sensationalize it. Boracay Island had been a victim of black propaganda campaigns that caused tourist arrivals to drop. Eventually it recovered.

Fewer tourists from foreign nations will be traveling, but local tourism is developing and may become a top priority market for the industry. Domestic travel can definitely boost the tourism industry but it won't develop unless the government, the private sector, the local community and the people help each other in realizing it.

We all have to do our part in marketing the Philippines as a safe place to visit. Let's invite all to come to our beautiful country.

As a resort facility, we do our best to attract Filipinos to come and visit by offering attractive packages. For instance, Pearl of the Pacific has special packages until Nov. 30, which offer substantial discounts.

There are so many things to see in our country. I've met several Filipinos who haven't even been to Boracay and yet they are only a few minutes away from "paradise." We have one life to live in peace within God's loving guidance. Trust that wherever we go God will take care of us.

'The bombings pale in comparison to the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking'

By Felix Christopher Alegre
President, Philippine Tour Operators Association

PHILIPPINE tourism has faced many challenges spawned by violence. The spate of terrorist activities that we have lately witnessed, however, pales in comparison to the previous incidents in terms of bad publicity for the country.

Take for instance the Sipadan hostage taking by Abu Sayyaf bandits. It was followed by the hostage-taking in Palawan. Philippine tourism suffered a severe blow primarily because of the negative publicity in the international media.

Now, what is very important, together with increased domestic security and enforcement of the rule of law, is how the government and the private sector work together to counter this negative publicity and how they move onward with the right promotional track for the country's tourism.

I would say that the government has done well through the Department of Tourism in helping address the negative publicity and in charting the course of the country's marketing efforts using the limited resources at its disposal. The DOT's call for intersectoral cooperation is providing increased security for tourism sites. Its focused marketing of the country's destinations in key short-haul markets such as Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China is proving to be effective.

Internal security

The whole world is facing threats from terrorists. But countries, which promote effectively and provide internal security, will see their tourism industries survive, if not grow.

The Philippines is moving onward. As a matter of fact, the local tourism industry is now preparing for its biggest travel fair--the 13th Philippine Travel Mart, which will be on Nov. 22 to 24 at the Megatrade Hall of the Megamall.

To date, this Travel Mart is still breaking records. As early as September, all our 340 booths were already booked by travel exhibitors. Not only are there more booths this year, there are more exhibitors.

Obviously, as tour operators, the conduct of our business is more challenging. There is more work to be done in terms of continuing to convince our travel wholesalers, our counterparts in other parts of the world, that travel and tours in the Philippines continue to be enjoyable, affordable and worthwhile.

Let us recall, however, that the world, in a very dramatic form, saw the bombing of the World Trade Center. But that didn't stop people from traveling to New York. There was temporary paralysis, so to speak, but life went on and people decided to travel again for their own reasons. Now the 9-11 site in New York is visited by thousands to bear witness to the insanity that is terrorism.

People resumed travel because they have a certain sense of security, and that sense arises from knowing that the authorities are doing the best they could to handle the situation.

In the same vein, foreigners will make that trip to the Philippines if they know that Filipino authorities are taking all necessary steps to ensure safe travel. Taking all precautions is one thing while telling the people that all steps are being taken is another.

In our line of business, we cannot guarantee 100 percent the safety of our clients. It's the same as not being able to guarantee one's safety when one crosses the street or rides the bus.

But we can inform our clients that we have taken the necessary steps to provide the best security for them as tour operators. This means excluding strife-torn areas in our tour packages. That is doable.

Travel advisories

We've had advisories left and right through the years. But at the same time, it's not something that must be ignored.

We need to continue to communicate the positive developments in the areas covered by the travel advisories. We also need to issue protests and use all appropriate venues to reverse advisories if we believe these have been issued unfairly.

Can domestic travel really boost the tourism industry?

Definitely. Domestic tourism is a gold mine, not only for the people in the tourism business, but for the economy as a whole and for the spirit of nationhood.

Domestic tourism has just started to move forward. We have yet to see the gold age of Philippine domestic tourism.

In my travels, I have seen positive signs for domestic tourism. In areas not yet frequented by foreigners, new tourism-related infrastructures are on the rise. Who would they cater to except the locals? People are putting in money in tourism. In Legaspi, Albay and in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, I hear of new investments in tourism, and their market is domestic tourism. In Davao, businesses are surviving because of domestic tourism.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Cops nab Bali suspect, begin grilling Bashir

JAKARTA—Police arrested a man who resembles the sketch of a suspect in the Bali nightclub bombings that killed nearly 200 people, the chief investigator said Saturday.

Meanwhile, police began questioning the alleged spiritual leader of Jemaah Islamiyah—an Islamic group that is emerging as a prime suspect in the attack.

Abu Bakar Bashir, 64, has been hospitalized since his Oct. 18 arrest for what he says is a respiratory ailment. He is being questioned about a series of bombings on churches in Christmas 2000 and an alleged plot to kill President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Police Capt. Jeldy Ramadhan said a team of 11 police officials would ask Bashir 50 questions in a tightly guarded room at a police hospital in East Jakarta over several days.

Bashir's lawyer, Achmad Michdan, said his client would refuse to answer police, claiming the arrest was illegal.

The man arrested in connection with the Bali blasts, identified only by the initials R.S., was detained Thursday at a bus terminal in the town of Bajawa on Flores island, about 500 km east of Bali, Police Maj. Gen. I Made Pastika said.

The man was flown to Denpasar, the capital of Bali, on Friday for questioning, Pastika said. He added, however, that it was too early to conclude whether R.S. was linked to the Bali blasts.

The man, aged about 33 and with shoulder length hair, tried to hide his face with a newspaper when police picked him up at the bus terminal, district police chief Lt. Col. Victor Edison Simandjuntak said.

"He is refusing to answer many of our questions," he said.

Police said R.S. was a resident of Jakarta but was born in Ambon, the capital of Indonesia's Maluku islands, where a three-year conflict between Christians and Muslims has left nearly 10,000 people dead.

Investigators said R.S. told them that he was vacationing in Flores and was in Bajawa looking for a hotel to stay the night.

The manhunt for those behind the Bali bombings is also taking place on Indonesia's main island of Java. Police raiding a house found a photograph matching a police sketch of one of three suspects whose faces appeared in composite sketches released earlier this week.

About 120 Australian police and intelligence officers are working in Bali with detectives from Indonesia, the United States, Britain, Japan and other countries. About half of those killed were Australian.

Indonesian Defense Minister Matori Abdul Jalil has accused the al-Qaida terror network of being involved in the bombings—the world's most deadly terrorist attack since Sept. 11, 2001. *AP*

Massive quake rocks Aceh; at least 35 hurt

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—A massive earthquake rocked Indonesia's Sumatra island Saturday injuring at least 35 people, damaging houses and causing residents to panic and run into the streets.

Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said the quake was magnitude 5.3. However, Australian scientists said it was much stronger, registering 7.7, and capable of massive damage and loss of life. The Hong Kong Observatory and the US Geological Survey both recorded the quake at 7.5.

Seismologists in Singapore said there was a high risk of tsunami—powerful waves caused by seismic activity—in western Sumatra.

At least 35 people, including five in critical condition, were hospitalized on Simeulue island, 400 km from Sumatra's northern tip, Simeulue hospital chief Dr. Hanif said.

"We fear that there are dozens more with even worse injuries. There are no roads on this island. It is very hard to get to the casualties," said Hanif, who like many Indonesians uses one name only.

Four government buildings and dozens of shops were damaged, the island's deputy government leader Ibnu Aban said.

"It's about the same magnitude of the very destructive Gujarat quake in India two years ago," which killed 13,000 people, said Mark Leonard of Geoscience Australia.

He said the temblor was not likely to be as destructive though as it was centered offshore. The US Geological Survey said on its website the quake was located 20 km off the coast of northern Sumatra, and was 33 km deep. *AP*

Last of 26 kids pulled from rubble of schoolhouse

SAN GIULIANO DI PUGLIA, Italy—Residents of this remote southern village spent the night outdoors or in tents, fearing aftershocks from an earthquake that crushed a school on top of 26 children and killed three adults.

Traumatized locals suffered a mild aftershock before dawn Saturday, a day after two strong aftershocks—one registering 5.3 magnitude—rumbled through town, sending panic-stricken residents into the streets.

The temblors Friday prompted authorities to order everyone evacuated from the town center to a tent city erected on a sports field, where residents set bonfires and bundled themselves in blankets to stay warm overnight.

Rescue workers extracted the last body Friday from the rubble of the school where the 26 children and one teacher died. Two town residents were killed in their homes in Thursday's quake.

Attention began to turn to accusations that shoddy construction in a quake-prone zone may have been to blame.

Illegal construction is rampant in southern Italy, and prosecutors on Friday opened an investigation into the collapse of the school, one of the few buildings in town which was completely destroyed by Thursday's 5.4-magnitude quake.

Critics also questioned why authorities hadn't designated the region, about 225 km southeast of Rome, a quake-prone area, which would have required stiffer, anti-earthquake building regulations.

Civil protection officials were scheduled to meet Saturday to discuss risks in the region. More than 3,000 people across several towns in the area remained homeless.

The shock of Thursday's loss turned the town San Giuliano Di Puglia silent Friday, but for the cries of parents. This remote, tight-knit community of fewer than 1,200 people is composed largely of farmers producing olive oil.

"In this moment more than in any other, you can't express your sadness," said 69-year-old Matteo Campanelli, who lost four grandchildren in the rubble. "They were children. Let's hope that the angels embrace them."

He spoke at the entrance of a gymnasium outside the crumbled town center that had been converted into a morgue, where families wailed alongside open caskets.

Faces covered

In most coffins, the faces of the children had been covered. But a few blackened, lifeless baby faces peeked out above basketballs, photos, and soccer jerseys. Some of the children were placed in big mahogany coffins because the small, white wooden ones for children had run out.

Funeral services for the dead were scheduled for Sunday.

The school itself was a 12-meter pile of stone and bent metal littered with "Puss N' Boots" books, an "E.T." pencil case, backpacks and a sneaker.

Rescuers trying to extract the final corpses hurtled down the heap of rubble when the aftershocks rumbled through town. But they returned to remove the final body, that of a teacher credited with saving several pupils.

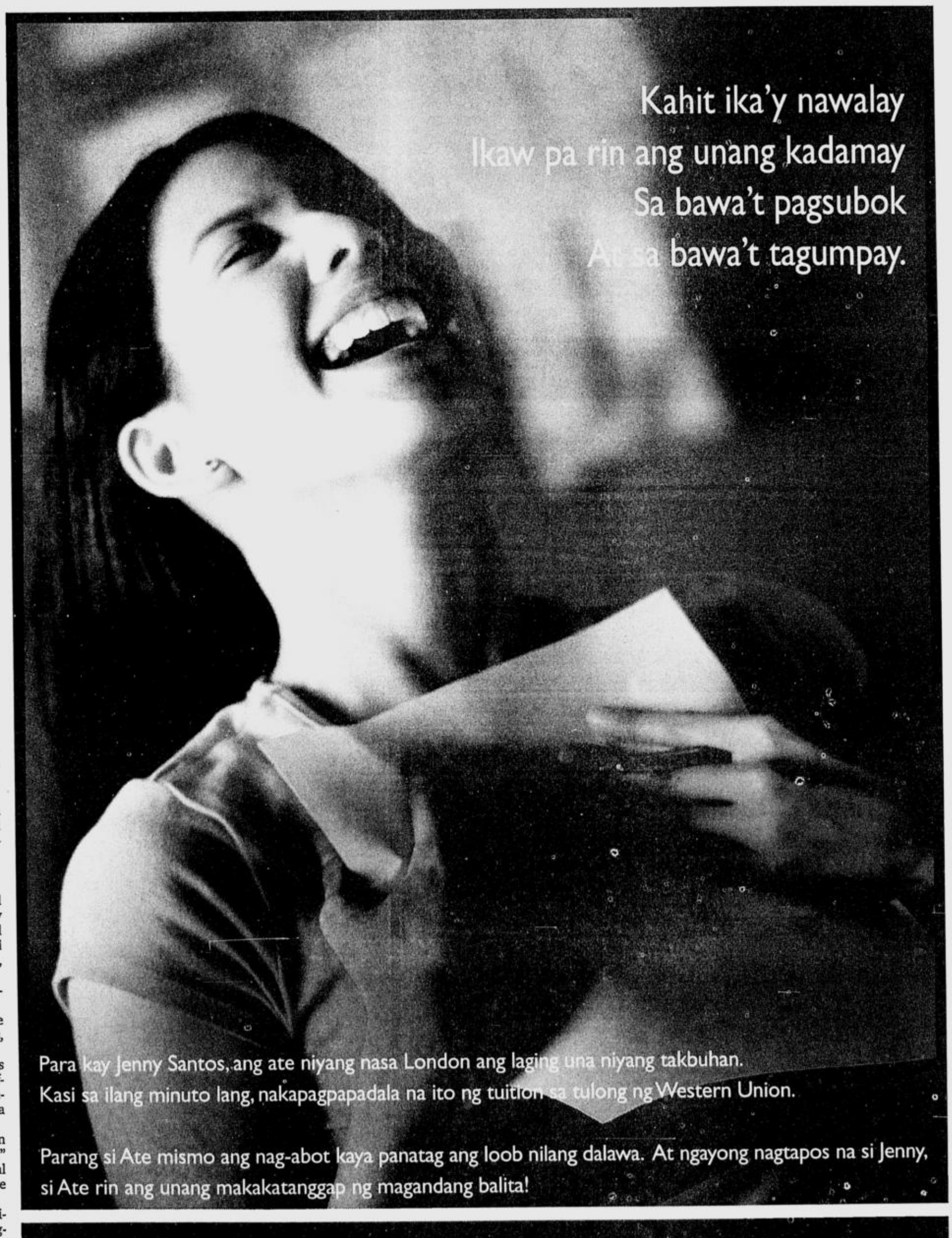
"She's a hero. She pushed all her children out and then the building collapsed on her," said Stefan De Mistura, a former UN official and the head of the Italian Red Cross. "She was shouting for the children to go out."

A teacher who survived, Clementina Simone, said she was giving her students a geography lesson about earthquakes this week near Mount Etna in Sicily when the earth shook.

"I was told I had lost all of my nine first grade pupils," said Simone. "I wanted to go back and help, but the rescuers wouldn't let me."

However, one first-grade girl, 7-year-old Veronica, told reporters Friday from the hospital that she had survived by hiding under a desk.

Pope John Paul II, appearing at his studio window overlooking St. Peter's Square at the Vatican, offered prayers for the victims and encouragement to survivors and the rescue crews. *AP*



Chechen rebel warlord claims responsibility for Moscow raid

MOSCOW—Chechnya's leading rebel warlord claimed responsibility for the hostage-taking attack on a Moscow theater in a website statement Friday, while Russian lawmakers moved to severely curb news coverage of anti-terrorist operations, including the war in Chechnya.

Warlord Shamil Basayev said his group was behind the theater raid and promised that future attacks would be even more destructive.

"The next time, those who come won't make any demands, won't take hostages," Basayev said on a Chechen website. Their "main goal will be destroying the enemy and exacting maximum damage," he said.

The statement's authenticity could not be confirmed.

Basayev claimed the attack was planned without the knowledge of Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov. He asked Maskhadov's forgiveness for preparing the raid in secret and said he would resign from all posts in the rebel hierarchy.

Kremlin officials, who have said Maskhadov was a chief organizer of the hostage attack, called Basayev's statement a smoke screen designed to divert attention from the rebel leader.

"Basayev is trying to shield Maskhadov from blame, to save him from further political games," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the Kremlin's spokesperson on Chechnya, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, as saying.

Basayev also criticized the world community for denouncing the hostage-takers but failing to express sufficient concern about the "innocent victims of the bloody war in Chechnya," whose plight he said had motivated the attackers.

Russia's lower house of parliament on Friday approved amendments to the country's media law that would put severe restrictions on press coverage of "counter-terrorist operations," which would include the war in Chechnya and the special forces operation that rescued hundreds of hostages but led to the death of at least 117 others.

By a margin of 231-106 with one abstention, State Duma lawmakers voted to prohibit the media from distributing information that hinders counter-terrorist operations, reveals tactics used in such operations or information about people involved in them.

The amendments also ban the publication or broadcast of "statements by individuals that are aimed at hindering a counter-terrorist operation and/or justifying resistance to a counter-terrorist operation" and other "propaganda or justification of extremist activity."

The changes are expected to be approved by the upper house and signed by President Vladimir Putin to become law.

Press watchdog groups said the media law changes would have a chilling effect on discussion and debate on Chechnya—as well as on the government's tactics during the hostage crisis.

"Everything we're discussing here today can now fall under the rubric of hindering a counterterrorist operation," said Oleg Panfilov, director of the Center for Journalism in Extreme Situations, who took part in a human rights forum Friday on Russia's conduct during the hostage drama. *AP*

IT'S SUMMER IN SATURN AP

Saturn appears in the first color composite made of images taken by Nasa's Cassini spacecraft on its approach to the ringed planet on Oct. 21. The planet was 285 million km away from the spacecraft, nearly twice the distance between the sun and Earth when Cassini took images of it in various filters as an engineering test. It is summer in Saturn's southern hemisphere, with the sun casting a semi-circular shadow of the planet partially across the rings, lower left, leaving the outermost A ring in sunlight from an angle of 27 degrees below the equator.

'FEMME NUE DEBOUT' AFP

Paul Cezanne's "Femme Nue Debout" is seen at Sotheby's auction house in New York on Nov. 1. Sotheby's will host a sale of impressionist and modern art next week. According to Sotheby's, the painting is expected to sell for $10,000,000 to $15,000,000. The European Commission recently fined Sotheby's $20 million for illicitly fixing fees with rival Christie's.

HK tabloid apologizes for nude photo

HONG KONG—A Hong Kong tabloid magazine apologized Saturday for publishing a nude photo of a local actress when she was allegedly held against her will.

The feisty Chinese-language Eastweek magazine sparked outrage among the public, actors and politicians for using the picture of the actress on the cover of its latest issue, which hit newsstands on Oct. 30.

The picture was reportedly taken when she was kidnapped about 12 years ago and shows the veteran film star in some distress.

Although her eyes were shaded out, many in the territory could still easily identify her.

In an earlier statement, Eastweek stood by its decision to publish the picture, saying it was "based on the spirit and principle of revealing the truth and exercising public monitoring on society."

But it backtracked after the picture's publication attracted widespread condemnation and sparked a heated debate on media ethics.

Eastweek on Saturday took out ads in various local newspapers to apologize to the film star and the public, admitting it had been wrong to publish the photograph.

The Hong Kong show business industry also bought full-page ads in 12 local dailies blasting Eastweek for "burying their conscience in a bid to boost the magazine's circulation."

The commissioner of Television and Entertainment Licensing, Eddy Chan, said a record number of complaints had been received regarding the photo. Chan told local radio on Saturday that more than 300 complaints had been received so far.

Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa also expressed his disapproval that the photo had been published.

Henry Tang, secretary for commerce industry and technology, said the chief executive thought such immoral behavior should be condemned.

The Organized Crime and Triad Bureau launched an investigation into whether criminal offenses were committed when the photo was taken.

On Friday, entertainers including Kung Fu star Jackie Chan and pop diva Anita Mui appealed to the public to boycott the magazine.

Local film director Ng Si-yuen blasted the weekly for publishing the picture "for the sake of a few extra dollars."

"Does money really outweigh the conscience of the people of Hong Kong?" he asked.

A coalition of eight political parties also condemned the magazine, slamming its coverage as a serious infringement of privacy and a serious breach of media ethics.

Hong Kong has one of the world's most hotly-contested media markets with some 45 daily and weekly newspapers battling for market share among the territory's 6.3 million residents.

Some observers say the ruthless competition has meant professional ethics and reporting standards have been compromised in favor of sensationalist coverage pandering to the lowest tastes. *AFP*

Retired priest sent to jail for sex abuse

DETROIT—A retired 83-year-old Roman Catholic priest has been sentenced to 30 days in jail and five years probation for sexually abusing a 13-year-old boy in 1986.

Robert Burkholder, who has admitted molesting at least a dozen boys going as far back as the 1940s, pleaded no contest in the case Friday. He was ordered to register as a sex offender.

In August, Burkholder was charged with engaging in sexual conduct with the boy while the pair vacationed in Hawaii in 1986. The trip was an eighth-grade graduation present to the boy, prosecutors said.

A no-contest plea is not an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Miffed by security check

EVANSVILLE, Indiana—A French woman accused of baring her breasts during an airport security screening pleaded guilty Friday and paid a $2 fine. Eliane Yvonne Marcele Aguillaume, 56, of Paris, pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts, resisting law enforcement and public indecency. She was initially arrested Monday on a preliminary felony count of disorderly conduct, but that charge was never officially filed. She was fined $1 on each misdemeanor count, but she also will be required to pay court costs of about $130. Aguillaume was arrested Monday at Evansville Regional Airport after she allegedly stripped to the waist in an angry response to a security screener's attempt to search her with a metal-detecting wand. *AP*

'Dear Abby' defense

NORRISTOWN, Pa.—A woman accused of killing her boyfriend and hiding his body in the basement has publicized her defense in a letter to Dear Abby, a syndicated advice column, prosecutors said Friday. The columnist published a letter this week from a woman claiming she had purchased a gun to scare her abusive live-in boyfriend, "but he was accidentally shot fatally." The writer says she concealed the body because she was in a "state of panic." The letter was signed, "Lost It All In Philadelphia." Abby's response: "My prayers are with you, and I hope you are dealt with more compassionately by the legal system than you were by the person who drove you to desperation." District Attorney Bruce Castor is certain the letter-writer is Nancy Kay Austin, 38, who is accused of killing Samuel Monroe, 47, in their Norristown home. "I'm not going to abide by Dear Abby's advice," Castor said. *AP*

No legal rights

NEW YORK— An American accused of conspiring to detonate a so-called dirty bomb has no right to a lawyer or the courts because he is rightfully held as an enemy combatant, the government argued in court papers. "Neither the Constitution nor the laws of war confer a right to counsel to an enemy combatant to challenge the fact of his wartime detention," prosecutors said in written arguments submitted Friday. Prosecutors say they have no obligation to let defense lawyers see a classified document describing Jose Padilla's contacts with al-Qaida leaders. Defense lawyer Donna Newman said Thursday that the government was violating Padilla's constitutional rights by holding him without charges. There was no indication when a judge might rule on the matter. The former Chicago gang member was arrested May 8 and secretly held in a federal jail on a material witness warrant. The government said he twice met with senior al-Qaida operatives in Pakistan in March and discussed a plot to detonate a radiological weapon in the United States. On June 9, President George W. Bush decided that Padilla was an enemy combatant and should be transferred to the control of the US military. *AP*

Showering together

MELBOURNE—Australians hit by one of the worst droughts in a century should shower together according to the minister responsible for water restrictions in the nation's second most populous state. Victoria state Environment Minister Sherryl Garbutt said even those not in a relationship could "find a sympathetic friend" and shower together to save thousands of liters of water over the southern hemisphere summer. "I would urge Victorians to share their shower," she said in the Herald-Sun newspaper. "It is a very popular idea around my office for people to be showering with a friend. It is a great way to add to the overall water savings." Water restrictions take effect in Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, from Nov. 1 for the first time in 20 years. They target mainly outdoor water use, such as swimming pools. *Reuters*

2 Mexico generals guilty of accepting drug money

MEXICO CITY—In a landmark ruling, a military court on Friday sentenced two Mexican Army generals to prison for taking money from a drug mob in exchange for information on anti-drug operations.

Retired Gen. Humberto Quiros was sentenced to 16 years in a military prison, while Brig. Gen. Arturo Acosta received a 15-year prison term under the ruling.

During the trial, witnesses told the court the two generals had links to the bloody Juarez Cartel, once headed by the late Amado Carrillo Fuentes, who was known as the "Lord of the Skies" for flying planes filled with cocaine into the United States.

"Francisco Quiros Hermosillo is guilty and criminally responsible . . . of committing drug crimes," said Gen. Domingo Sosa, the judge on the seven-member war council.

Sosa read a similar guilty verdict for Acosta. Both were stripped of their rank and prohibited from wearing uniforms in the future. Quiros was also found guilty of bribery.

The trial at an Army base on the outskirts of Mexico City was open to the press, an unusual move for Mexico's secretive military. The council did not make public how its members reached the guilty verdicts or the sentences.

The war council was set up by the Supreme Military Tribunal to hear the case—the first time Mexico's military has tried two of its own on drug charges. The Mexican military has been involved in the country's drug fight for about a decade.

Mexico's former anti-drug czar, Gen. Jesus Gutierrez, is serving 71 years in prison after being convicted in civilian courts of aiding the Juarez Cartel. *Reuters*

SPECTACULAR ERUPTION REUTERS

On Oct. 30, the International Space Station's Expedition Five crew was able to observe Mount Etna's spectacular eruption. Etna's brown ash plume can be seen being blown to the southeast and extending as far as 600 km. The lighter-colored plumes north of the summit are produced by forest fires set by lava flowing into the pine forests on the slope of the mountain.

2 Cali cartel leaders freed

BOGOTA—A judge has ordered the release of two leaders of the former Cali drug cartel, halfway into their prison sentences. Top government officials protested the decision.

Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez were arrested in 1995 and convicted subsequently of trafficking cocaine to the United States. They were sentenced to 14 and 15 years, respectively.

Judge Pedro Suarez on Friday ordered their release after they served seven years and put them on probation. They had participated in a work-study program to cut their sentence—a program usually meant for less serious offenses.

Attorney General Luis Camilo Osorio called the decision to release the men "unfortunate," adding he would review the case.

Fernando Londono, Colombia's interior and justice minister, said the decision "shows us once again that judicial power in Colombia is incapable of dealing with the issue of drug trafficking.

"These men, with their gigantic economic power, are generating a judicial result that doesn't correspond with the evidence," he added.

The judge defended his decision and stressed that the men would be on probation. "This is conditional liberty," said Suarez. "They are still subject to a variety of obligations." It was unclear exactly when the men would be freed.

The Rodriguez brothers were at the helm of the former drug cartel in Cali, believed to control the cocaine market in New York. The United States requested the extradition of both men three times after their 1995 arrest, but were denied each time. Colombia's Constitution forbade extradition of Colombians for drug trafficking at that time.

Canada requested the extradition of Gilberto Rodriguez, and was denied for the same reason.

In 1997, the Colombian Constitution was amended to allow extradition for drug crimes committed after that year. *AP*

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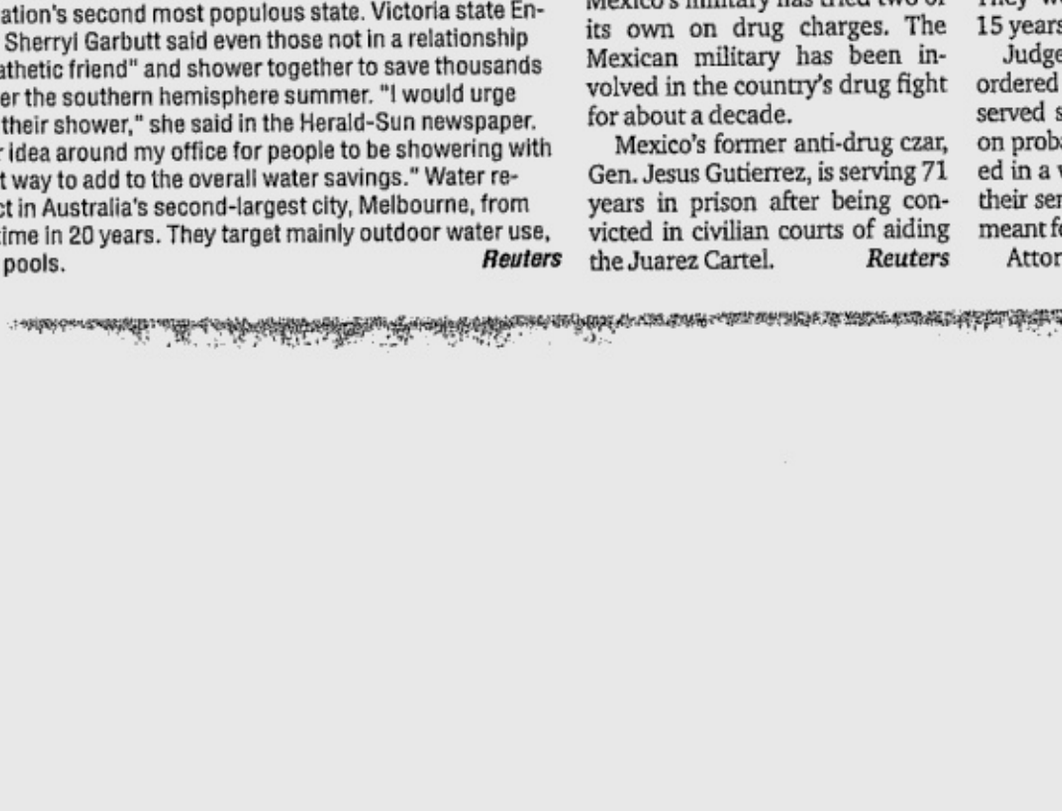

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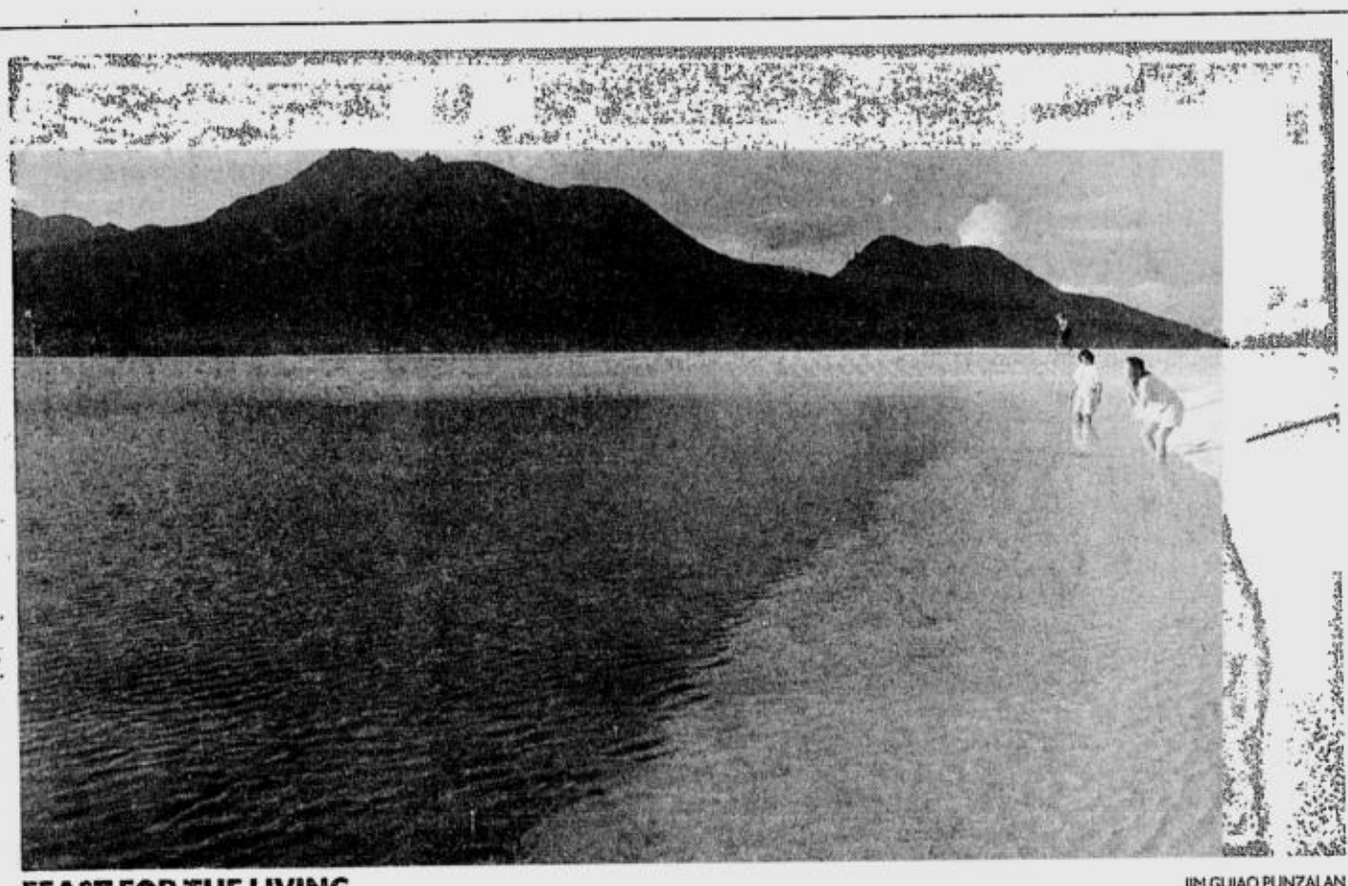


FEAST FOR THE LIVING JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
A tourist enjoys the early sunrise at White Island with Mount Hibok-Hibok and Mount Vulcan in the background in Camiguin. The Island is located two kilometers across the sea from Barangays Agoho and Yumbing in Mambajao town.

5 killed in violence on All Saints' Day

By Carmela Reyes and Romulo Ponte
PDI Central Luzon Desk and PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PLARIDEL, Bulacan—A group of men beat up and killed a man who ran amuck and shot dead three village guards in a cemetery in Barangay Culianin here on All Saints' Day.

Suspect Benedicto Leonardo, 43, died while being taken to the San Diego Hospital here.

Police said Leonardo, a resident of Barangay Culianin, started threatening people who went to the cemetery in the village at 6 p.m. Friday.

Members of Bantay Bayan, a peacekeeping force in the village, arrived and tried to pacify Leonardo, whom police said was drunk at the time. The latter, however, shot them using his .38 cal. revolver.

Police said Leonardo, who concealed his face using a white shirt and sunglasses, shot and killed Rogelio Fuentes, 60; Danilo Fuentes, 65; and Marcial Manlapig, 73; all Bantay Bayan members.

Leonardo also fired at Alfredo Manlapig, 61, chief of the Bantay Bayan, but the bullet missed him.

Sensing that the suspect had run out of bullets, some people visiting their dead relatives immediately reported the incident to a police station near the cemetery.

Before the police arrived, a group of men went after Leonardo and started beating him up. The men escaped after mauling the suspect.

Senior Supt. Felizardo Serapio Jr., Bulacan police director, said he had ordered Supt. Mario de la Vega, police chief here, to identify the men who attacked Leonardo.

Police recovered Leonardo's gun and six spent shells from the crime scene.

Supt. Anastacio Inoncillo, Bulacan police intelligence officer, said Leonardo had homicide cases in Malabon, Metro Manila, where he used to live.

In Laguna, a child who witnessed the fistfight of two drunken men inside the cemetery in Victoria town in the evening of All Saints' Day had a heart attack and was pronounced dead in a hospital here.

Boyet Bitog, uncle of the victim identified him as Francis General Kampitan, 9, a grade three pupil of Montessori de la Fede and eldest son of Ner and Analyn Kampitan of Victoria.

Bitog said that at about 10 p.m., when the victim was eating a piece of hotdog, two unidentified men who were apparently drunk suddenly fought in front of Kampitan who was extremely terrified and shocked that he swallowed a big cut of the hotdog.

"The hotdog (went into) the child's esophagus and blocked his lungs so that when the victim was brought to a hospital in nearby Sta. Cruz town, he was unable to survive and was pronounced dead by a physician," the child's uncle said.

A police officer said the child was known to have a heart illness and said it could be the reason why he expired. The victim's remains lie in state at the parents' home here.

The police force in Victoria, including barangay tanods, were in full alert all night on All Saints' Day.

They live on entertainment in cemeteries

CALAMBA CITY—"We virtually live here. My six sons and a son-in-law are working here, except for our 11 and 13-year-old sons who are at home and studying in Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija," said Emerita Esmilla, 50, wife of the overall in-charge of the *feria*, an entertainment fair, installed at Barangay Lecheria here where four cemeteries are located.

The facility is installed where there is festivities, especially during All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

"We have been coming here four times already but it was only in 1999 that our income was good," said Esmilla, whose family is in this kind of entertainment trade for 25 years.

She said their income in the fair has enabled them to send their children through high school, but not enough to support them through to college.

Nida Panganiban-Marcial, 49, an overseer of the fair, said she has worked in various *ferias* for 37 years. She holds the most lucrative position among 30 workers in the *feria* receiving 5 to 15 percent share from the gaming units. She said her income is just enough for her and her child to survive.

If the weather is bad, she would earn as low as P76 a day.

Village folk usually prepare food during All Saints' Day because their relatives come from distant places and visit their dead loved ones in various cemeteries.

"Perhaps, outsiders have mistaken this occasion for a real barrio fiesta because of the big number of people walking along roads leading to the four cemeteries," the cathechist said.

The cleric has cautioned Catholics not to be disrupted in their observance of the days for the saints and the dead by the distractions that maybe caused by the material entertainment, fanfare, gambling games offered by the fair. He, however, said he understood the economic need of those in the fair business, hence, "things like these are difficult to control." *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Slain Bacolod members remembered

CEBU CITY—The remaining members of the Bacolod family remembered their slain loved ones inside their cramped quarters at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) headquarters here.

For security reasons, Ricky, Josebil, Niño and Chlea could not visit the graves of their parents, sisters and brother at the Cebu South Memorial Homes in Talisay City on All Saints' Day. As witnesses to the killing of their loved ones, they are under the protective custody of the CIDG.

Instead, they said their prayers inside their quarters at about 3 p.m. on Thursday. They lighted candles and offered food on the altar inside their quarters.

They prayed that the souls of their parents Elpidio and Rosalia, sisters Evelyn and Alona and brother Ben would be in peace despite their violent deaths.

Alona's decomposing body was found last Jan. 8 inside a garbage bag dumped in Dalaguete town, about 85 kilometers south of this city.

Her husband, Ruben Ecleo Jr., supreme master of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, is facing parricide charges for the death of his wife.

Ecleo, now detained at the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center, denied the charges.

On June 18, a lone gunman fired at the five while they were sitting on a bench outside Ben's house at Sitio Pinahagbong, Barangay Subangdaku, Mandaue City.

Ricky survived the attack with a minor wound on the head. A neighbor, Sofronio Lactawan, who was fetching water nearby, was not spared despite pleas to spare his life.

The gunman Rico Gumolon was shot dead by policemen after chasing him up to the department store on the Reclamation Area, less than a kilometer from Ben's house and about 200 meters away from the police station.

The Bacolod siblings believed Ecleo had a hand in the gruesome killing, especially after Gumolon was established to be a PBMA member.

It has been almost five months since the carnage but the Bacolod siblings are still coping with the pain of losing their loved ones.

The siblings said they missed their parents. "I wish I had shown them how much I loved them," said Josebil, holding back his tears.

He said one thing he regretted most was his failure to show his parents how much he loved them. "Both my father and mother knew that I loved them but I was not able to fully show it to them," he said.

His brothers Niño and Ricky shared the same sentiment. Ricky said life without their parents had been very difficult, "unlike before when we rely on them to solve problems."

Last month, Ricky said his father visited him in his dream. "He told me to take care of my siblings because we are now on our own," he said in Cebuano.

In the same dream, Ricky saw that if his father did not shield him that fateful night, he would have been dead too.

"This showed how much father loved us, that he was willing to give his own life for us," he said.

Niño said their parents may have left them physically "but not spiritually."

"In times of trouble and hardship we all ask *tatay* and *nanay* to help us," he said. "We asked them not to forsake us and to continuously guide us."

The siblings said they have to lean on each other now because their relatives in Cebu have stayed away from them. *Suzzane Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Kamikaze peace shrines forlorn on day of the dead

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

MABALACAT, Pampanga—Except for some candles lit by a Filipino and brief stopovers by some Japanese based here, peace memorials erected on former Kamikaze airfields in Central Luzon were forlorn on the day of the dead.

"It must have been because of the travel ban (on Japanese nationals following the Sept. 11, 2001 attack)," said Guy Hilbero, head of the Mabalacat Tourism Council.

Two peace memorials were built in Clark, one in this town and another in Bamban, Tarlac.

Hilbero lighted candles and incense sticks at the Goddess of Peace Shrine at the Lily Hill of the former Clark Air Base.

More prayers must be said at the site because American and Filipino soldiers stationed there at various times reported seeing and hearing Japanese troops marching in synchronized cadence at night, he said.

This hill was said to be the last stronghold of the Kembu Group. Comprised of 30,000 Japanese soldiers from the Army and naval defense forces under Lt. Gen. Rikichi Tsukada and Rear Admiral Ushie Sugimoto, they held Clark against advancing American troops during World War II.

Hilbero also visited three other peace shrines, the Kamikaze west airfield inside Clark's ex-ammunition's dam, the Kamikaze east airfield in Cacutud, Mabalacat, and another in Bamban where Kamikaze founder Vice Admiral Takijiro Ohnishi held his last defense.

"Let me clarify that I or the Mabalacat tourism office do not glorify the Kamikaze," he said, referring to the pilots named after the "winds of god."

As "human bombs," the Kamikaze pilots crashed their planes into American battleships.

War history, Hilbero explained, is a "tool for the promotion of peace and friendship among nations."

The shrines, he added, should "serve as reminders that the Kamikaze phenomenon should never happen again."

Fifty-eight years after Ohnishi founded the Kamikaze in Mabalacat on Oct. 24, 1944, Hilbero believed it was still important to pray for the souls of all dead Japanese soldiers, including Filipinos and Americans.

Many Japanese tourists did this even before the Clark-Mabalacat area was declared the "City of World Peace" in 1998, the 54th anniversary of the birth of Kamikaze, he said.

Pampanga officials and His Eminence Ekan Ikeguchi, the Great Buddhist Bishop of Japan, made the declaration four years ago.

"Years before the declaration, there were so many (Japanese) who came to pray. Always, they (went) inside the tall cogon grass and said their prayers there," Hilbero, a long-time resident of Mabalacat, recalled.

On the same spot, Ohnishi was said to have gathered 23 airmen from the 201st Air Group of the First Air Fleet of Imperial Nippon Naval Air Force under Commander Asaichi Tamai.

Last week, a Buddhist bishop and a Japanese congressman led about 150 Japanese in commemorating the birth of the Kamikaze attack group.

The Japanese delegates, headed by Bishop Zenko Akahoshi of Shingon Buddhism, and Congressman Torao Tokuda, on Oct. 25 led the celebration of a two-hour Buddhist ceremony at the Lily Hill and the wreath-laying rites at the Kamikaze west and east airfields.

Akahoshi and several monks visited other places in the country as part of their "world peace campaign."

Through a Japanese reporter of the Manila Shimbun, Akahoshi told the INQUIRER that his group had been advised to stay away from high-risk areas due to the recent series of bombings and kidnappings in the country. *With a report from Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

MILF asks gov't to free bomb suspect

COTABATO CITY—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is asking the government to release an Afghanistan-trained bomb maker arrested by military intelligence operatives in Alamada, North Cotabato on Monday afternoon.

Sulayman Ismael alias Abu Hashim was nabbed by agents of the 12th Intelligence Service Unit and soldiers belonging to the 38th Infantry Battalion at a checkpoint in Barangay Raradangan around 3 p.m.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said Ismael was arrested along with PO1 Majibor Tabara for possession of explosives.

Ando said a 60-mm mortar shell fitted with a timing device and blasting caps were seized from the duo.

Ismael and Tabara were being detained at the Cotabato provincial jail in Amas, Kidapawan City.

Ando said charges of illegal possession of explosives were being readied against the suspects.

But Eid Kabalu, speaking for the MILF, said Ismael was not carrying any explosive when soldiers arrested him.

He admitted though that Ismael was trained in Afghanistan as a bomb maker and had served as instructor at the MILF's military academy inside its former Camp Abubakar.

"He was unarmed, he did not resist arrest despite the fact that the Army did not present any warrant," Kabalu told radio dxMS here.

But Ando insisted Ismael and Tabara possessed explosives at the time of their arrests.

"His arrest and our request for his release has been the subject of back channel talks between the MILF peace panel and (Presidential Assistant for Mindanao) Secretary Jesus Dureza," Kabalu said. Dureza chairs the GRP peace panel.

Kabalu said it was possible that the military "planted" the explosives because of its desire to link Ismael and the MILF to the bloody Weena explosion in Kidapawan City a few weeks ago.

At least seven people were killed and more than 20 others were injured in the explosion that took place at the busy section of the Kidapawan City terminal. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Judge indicted

NAGA CITY—Fed up with an apparent delay in issuing an order for the arrest of a lady mayor, her husband and two other accused suspects in a murder case, the wife of the victim filed in Supreme Court an administrative complaint against a regional trial court (RTC) judge in San Jose, Camarines Sur. Jocelyn Francia, the wife of murdered victim Miguel Antonio Francia, accused RTC Branch 58 Presiding Judge Eufronio Maristela of manifest partiality, abuse of authority and gross ignorance of the law. But Maristela said the murder case against Caramoan Mayor Marilyn Co, her husband Wilson, certain SPO1 Ramil Arañas and Sgt. Gilbert Reyes is awaiting SC decision for a change of venue. Francia's husband was shot dead at about 5 p.m., May 15, 2001, while walking to his house in Caramoan, Camarines Sur. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Treasurer power

LEGAZPI CITY—The Albay provincial council is seeking wider autonomy for local governments by giving local executives the power to appoint the treasurer and the assistant treasurer. In a resolution, board member Ramon Fernandez Jr., oversight committee chair, has sought power for the mayor to appoint the local treasurer and assistant treasurer for genuine autonomy in fiscal administration. Fernandez noted that at present, the local treasurer and assistant treasurer appear to be under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Finance, which is also the disciplining authority. He said this shows that there is no local autonomy as far as fiscal administration is concerned. *Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

4 fires in Gensan

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Bureau of Fire Protection here has recorded four fire incidents caused by unattended lighted candles during the All Saints' Day celebration. Fire officials said last Friday's fire incidents here damaged more than P.4 million in personal belongings and properties. The first fire hit Cahilsot, Barangay Calumpang at noon when an unattended candle razed the house of Army Sgt. Jose Villanueva. Villanueva and his family were having launch when he noticed a thick smoke coming out of their bedroom. When he saw that fire had been spreading, he ordered his wife and children to jump out of the house. As soon as the Villanuevas hit the ground, a strong explosion took place. The second fire occurred at around 3:20 p.m. destroying at least seven shanties in Paradise Subdivision in Barangay City Heights. The fire displaced about eight families. A few hours later, another fire hit Mansanitas Street but firefighters managed to put it out. At around 8 p.m. another blaze was reported in Crossing Makar, Barangay Labangal. The fire, again triggered by unattended candle, gutted three boarding houses. No casualty was reported in all four fire incidents. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel • Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Village needs funds for turtle hatchery

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur

FIRST, the good news: a marine turtle hatchery has been finally put up in mainland Mindanao (the first and only other facility is in Jolo, Sulu). The bad news? There aren't enough funds to run it.

The hatchery, measuring eight feet wide and 10 feet long, is made up of wood and screen, and stands near the shoreline in the island village of Purok Mahaba in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur. The island has a population of 300.

The project was initiated through the efforts of the Pawikan Conservation Program (PCP), which is supervised by the Department of Environment and National Resources; Nagkahiusang Mangingisda sa Hinatuan (Namahin), an umbrella organization of fishers' groups; and the Center for Empowerment and Resource Development Inc. (CERD), a nongovernment organization.

Arnold Tiro, a community organizer, said the facility "was a result of consultation among the groups that saw it as an answer to the preservation and conservation of the turtles."

Budget cut

As agreed, the PCP will provide technical and initial financial assistance, Namahin will supervise the operations, and CERD will serve as overseer.

"Unfortunately, the PCP informed us that they had to slash their operational budget and was afraid that this might not frustrate the people's expectation," said Tiro.

There was no recourse but to seek help from the local government. "Fortunately," said Tiro, "Vice Mayor Crispo Jabagat pledged to find a solution, indicating possible fund sourcing from the local government unit."

For the group, it is definitely something to look forward to. "As you can see, there is so much expectation of the project in the community level. Even as we were constructing it, *tinabangay gyud*."

Community vision

Spearheading the work is the Ladies United with Men Onwards to Development (Lumot), a village organization headed by Gemma Gadez, president.

"We have been looking forward to this and we will see to it that it will work," Gadez said.

At present, Istong and a few other community leaders went through a crash course on handling eggs of marine turtles given by the PCP.

"We envisioned that the whole community will be trained to do it so they can manage it among themselves," Gadez said

All eggs found in the villages along the Hinatuan Bay will be brought to the hatchery for safekeeping until they are hatched and the hatchlings freed to the sea.

Another plan is to designate a trained person-in-charge who will roam around and retrieve the eggs. "This is to ensure that the project will be sustainable," Gadez said.

Another thing to consider is the reward system.

"We need to give at least some sort of rewards to the fishermen and their families who will come all the way from other islands just to deliver the eggs. Like T-shirts and hats, for instance, but not necessarily money," said Tiro.

Info drive

One other important aspect of the hatchery project is education. While a greater number of the people know the legal complications of catching endangered marine species, there are still those who refuse to follow the law and secretly slaughter the animals.

"We need to thoroughly educate the public, convince them that this is more than just economics or one quick meal," said Gadez, who is known in the village as a strict and a no-nonsense marine life advocate.

Of the eight marine turtle species the world over, five are found here. They are the Olive Ridley, Leatherback, Hawksbill, Loggerhead and Green turtles.

It's probably one place in the country where a variety of these gentle creatures are found—a marine wealth for the people of Hinatuan and beyond.

Woman warrior for marine life

By Ramon Jorge Sarabosing
Surigao del Sur

VILLAGERS of Purok Mahaba, an island village of the Hinatuan Bay, don't like to mess around with Gemma Gadez. At least when it concerns marine turtles and dugongs (sea cows).

GADEZ

Gadez, 44, a respected woman leader, is known in the village as a principled conservationist who will not hesitate to confront lawbreaking fishers who openly or secretly capture, butcher and sell marine turtles and dugongs.

Her vigilance has once been put to a test when three drunk men who were earlier reported to have killed a baby dugong harassed her in a public gathering for, in their words, being critical and minding other people's business.

Trouble nearly erupted, but Gadez stood her ground. She said she was not afraid to speak in the name of the law.

"One of the men had earlier confessed to me the dugong was alive inside the fish corral but they killed it. They know it was unlawful but they think they can get away with it."

Not any more. Not with Gadez around.

In another instance, a close friend confessed to her that she had witnessed and taken part in killing a Hawksbill turtle in the far-end of the island a month before.

"She was nervous and asked for forgiveness. I warned her that if they did it again, I will not hesitate to report them to the police and will make sure they get jailed," she said.

To an old-fashioned, uneducated resident of the closely knit village, Gadez's hard stance may be too harsh but to her and other well-meaning followers, her strong sense of upholding the rule of law is laudable.

"You have to be strict, disciplined and determined or the law protecting endangered marine species will mean nothing here," Gadez said.

In the past, she would hear many times of crimes committed in her village or other islands, and these would upset her. "I would always feel a sense of loss and get frustrated. I don't think we have been wanting in educating the people, but there are always some who refuse to listen."

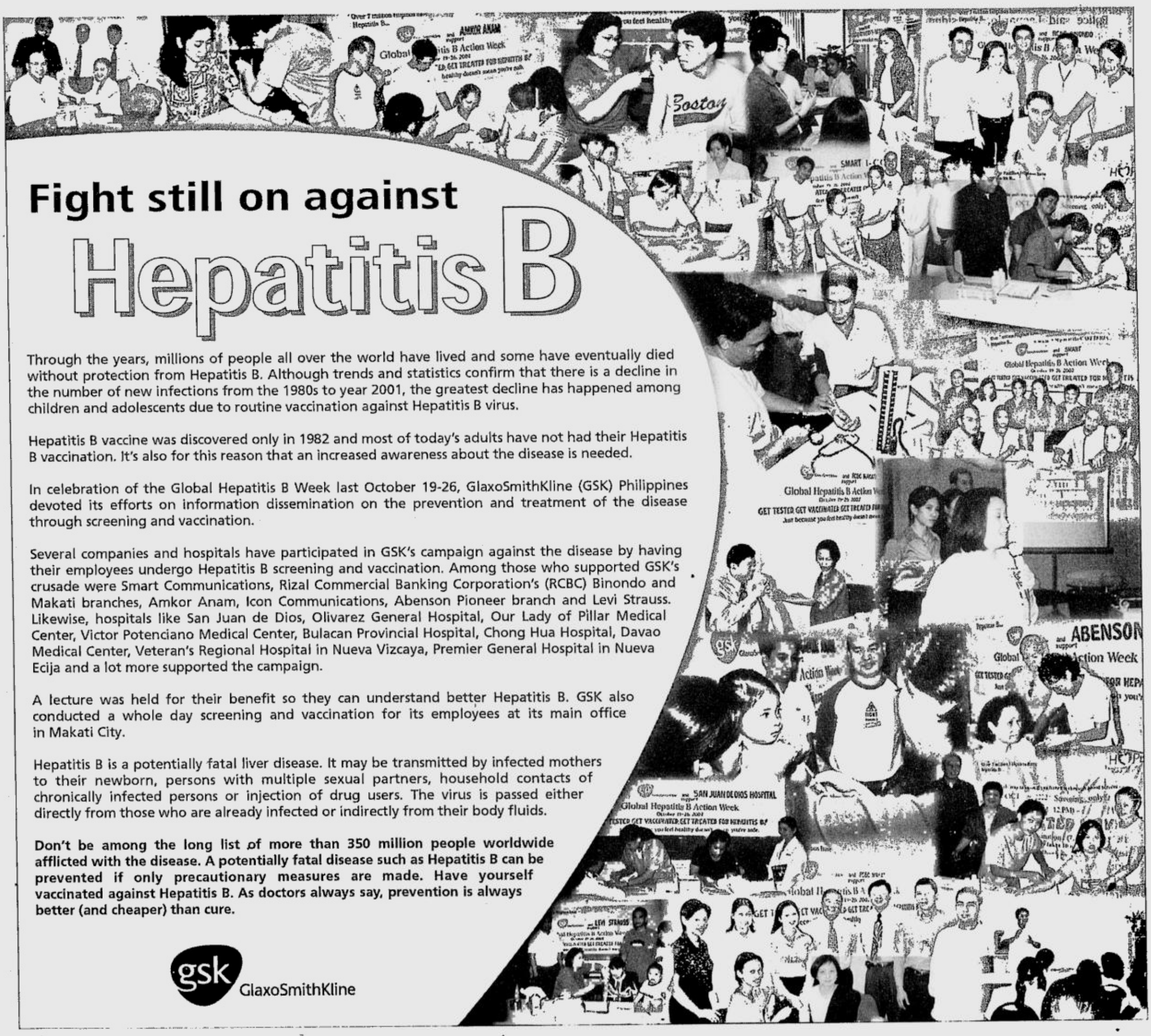
That is why she has to show to the public that she means business when someone breaks the law.

There has been a marked improvement. There are stories of villagers freeing back marine turtles and dugongs to the open seas. "That's nice to hear, isn't it?" she said.

Aside from her numerous responsibilities as president of the Nagkahiusang Mangingisda sa Hinatuan (Namahin), a large umbrella of fishers' groups, Gadez has never forgotten that the conservation and protection of marine species is equally important and relevant.

"All will come to nothing if we don't focus our concern back to the sea. It is after all, the reason we have gathered together."

Well said from a woman marine life warrior.



Fight still on against

Hepatitis B

Through the years, millions of people all over the world have lived and some have eventually died without protection from Hepatitis B. Although trends and statistics confirm that there is a decline in the number of new infections from the 1980s to year 2001, the greatest decline has happened among children and adolescents due to routine vaccination against Hepatitis B virus.

Hepatitis B vaccine was discovered only in 1982 and most of today's adults have not had their Hepatitis B vaccination. It's also for this reason that an increased awareness about the disease is needed.

In celebration of the Global Hepatitis B Week last October 19-26, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Philippines devoted its efforts on information dissemination on the prevention and treatment of the disease through screening and vaccination.

Several companies and hospitals have participated in GSK's campaign against the disease by having their employees undergo Hepatitis B screening and vaccination. Among those who supported GSK's crusade were Smart Communications, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation's (RCBC) Binondo and Makati branches, Amkor Anam, Icon Communications, Abenson Pioneer branch and Levi Strauss. Likewise, hospitals like San Juan de Dios, Olivarez General Hospital, Our Lady of Pillar Medical Center, Victor Potenciano Medical Center, Bulacan Provincial Hospital, Chong Hua Hospital, Davao Medical Center, Veteran's Regional Hospital in Nueva Vizcaya, Premier General Hospital in Nueva Ecija and a lot more supported the campaign.

A lecture was held for their benefit so they can understand better Hepatitis B. GSK also conducted a whole day screening and vaccination for its employees at its main office in Makati City.

Hepatitis B is a potentially fatal liver disease. It may be transmitted by infected mothers to their newborn, persons with multiple sexual partners, household contacts of chronically infected persons or injection of drug users. The virus is passed either directly from those who are already infected or indirectly from their body fluids.

Don't be among the long list of more than 350 million people worldwide afflicted with the disease. A potentially fatal disease such as Hepatitis B can be prevented if only precautionary measures are made. Have yourself vaccinated against Hepatitis B. As doctors always say, prevention is always better (and cheaper) than cure.

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
INQUIRER Mindanao
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2002

Graveyard reminiscences

DUGONG MINDANAW

Romel M. Oribe

We want to know what the Mindanaoan youngblood, middle-aged blood or high blood are thinking about what's happening in Mindanao and the rest of the country.—Ed.

AS A CHILD, I never liked the creepy feel and smell of cemeteries, and the sight of fractured tombs was enough to make me lose my appetite for days. In the few times that I had joined funerals, I had to puke my succeeding meals along with my entrails. Thus, All Souls' Day would have been a non-event to me if not for theme writing.

In elementary, we were required to write a composition on how we spent All Souls' Day. And to ensure factual writing, a classmate was assigned to check the attendance at the big white cross, guarded by two pockmarked, sightless angels.

I used to write about making a ball out of candle drippings which our maid would later use to oil the old flat iron to keep it from rusting and to wax the narra floor in circular strokes like a notebook's spring. Not much later, I decided to join my friends in their shenanigans, if only to add zing to my subsequent compositions.

The secret to bigger candle balls, my friends told me, was to switch strategy from passive to active mode. As in, instead of waiting for candles to burn trickles, I had to steal the whole stick when no one was around or if the owner was not looking. (Understand that if I heeded them, it was because the then 10-year-old me had yet to develop scruples.) Splitting the loot later under the thick canopy of a *balete* tree, we'd melt it onto our waxy orbs which, at 11 a.m., was already the size and color of a dappled softball.

Then off we went to the "great candle buffet." This was at the big white cross whose circular pool at the base was a blazing inferno of candles lit by people whose dead relatives were entombed elsewhere. As provincial buffets went, one had to wedge between clammy and stinking bodies or climb on someone's back to get to the main course. The latter was risky as one could be thrown off into the lake of fire like what happened to our friend Felix, who ended up with more blisters than a board of Chinese checker. Young and agile as we were, we always managed to get a piece of the action.

At twilight, after seeing the last wisp of smoke reach for the pastel sky, we'd start foraging for food that was originally offered for the dead. The living always made sure to uncover these foods to make it easier for the dead, who'd lost their sense of touch, to eat. These food were usually placed alongside candles on top of tombs where ants attacked them quicker than the spirits could say, "eat-all you-can!"

By this time everything had gone stale—the soda crackers no longer cracked, the soft drinks no longer foamed, and the *biko* no longer glistened. But just the same, my friends devoured them, saying the food were not stale but were only so because the spirits had already partaken of them. As I watched ant-coated food vanish into my friends' parched mouth, I puked so hard I had to tuck my eyeballs back to their muggy sockets.

But most things, like people, do change. I now look forward to All Souls' Day because after our parents died, it means reunion with relatives and friends. In fact, it no longer agitates my gut, what with the fortune people spend on graves and the makeover we do to celebrating things with the dead.

In our town of Tago in Surigao del Sur, All Souls' Day is a frenzied nine-day run up to November 1 where Tagon-ons troop to the cemetery at night to watch an eclectic show that includes a prayer rally, a rock concert, a ballroom dance contest, a masquerade, a fire-blowing contest and a Miss Gay tilt.

Creeping with people, our cemetery becomes a perfect venue for showing off one's belongings and fashion sensibilities. TV, VCD players, *lechon*, gourmet food, wines and flowers have become staple tomb-top items, giving the place the chaotic ambience of a *tiangge*.

But amidst all these, children still shape candle balls even if times have made the pursuit tougher. Candles, you see, have become so expensive that they remain unlit, especially those that are colored and scented and come in the shape of either a luxuriant cabbage rose or a winking cherub in diapers.

I wonder what the children write about now in their English composition class.

Building peace through sports

By R. Rosauro and G. Albasin
Cagayan de Oro City

PEOPLE in Mindanao reaffirmed their commitment to building peace through sports as the Second Mindanao Friendship Games opened here last week with fanfare and color.

Set against a backdrop of an island mired anew by crisis brought about by bombing incidents in two of its key cities several weeks ago, the week-long sports competitions kicked off with a parade of delegations from the Misamis Oriental capitol grounds to the Don Gregorio Pelaez Memorial Sports Complex.

The event bannered the theme "Sports: A Vehicle for Peace and Unity."

Hosted by the city government of Cagayan de Oro, the Friendship Games saw a phenomenal growth in the number of competing athletes, from 1,800 last year to over 3,500.

Bigger

Among the provinces that sent bigger contingents are Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga City, Basilan and Sulu. Last year, Basilan sent only one athlete for track and field. This year, it has 12 athletes in volleyball.

Sulu fielded eight for chess, taekwando and *pencak silat*, an Asian martial sport. They had only two for *pencak silat* last year.

Coach Alvarez Suaib, one of the delegation officials, said they were emboldened to send more athletes because of last year's success when they bagged a gold medal.

The total number of participating groups also registered a notable increase from some 30 last year to about 40 this year. It includes three Mindanao regional chapters of the Philippine Sports Association for the Differently-Abled (Philspada) and a guest delegation from Ilocos Norte.

"We are very honored and privileged by the invitation to guest in the Games. We came here for brotherhood and camaraderie," Ilocos delegation head Micheal Keon said.

BUILDING/ A17

Congratulations, Champions!

The UE Red Tracksters

Championship winners at the 7th National University Games (UniGames) held on October 18–25, 2002 at the Gov. Mariano Percides Memorial Coliseum in Dumaguete City.

The winning UE Tracksters, Men's Team: (from left) Coach Arthur Fronda, RV Alvarez, Eric Tauro (3 Gold medals, in 1,500-meter run, 3,000-meter run, 5,000-meter run), Alberto Pasia (Gold in 800-meter dash, Silver in 1,500-meter run) and Carlito Enterina. • Photo above shows the UE Red Tracksters after winning their unprecedented eighth UAAP Championship in a row at the most recent UAAP athletics tournament.

The winning UE Tracksters, Women's Team: Julie Rose Forbes (Gold, 400-meter dash), Rosel Espinas (Gold, 800-meter dash; 2 Bronzes, 1,500-meter run and 3,000-meter run), Mercidita Manipol (2 Golds, 1,500-meter run and 3,000-meter run), Meriam Fortunato (Silver, 800-meter dash), Amelia Francisco (Bronze, 200-meter dash) and Rizza Garcia. The team also won the Gold in the 4x400-meter relay and the Silver in the 4x100-meter relay. • Photo shows Mercedita Manipol (inset), Meriam Fortunato, Analiza Cruz, former Trackster Marites Riano, and Mary Grace Melgar at the most recent UAAP athletics tournament.

The UE Tracksters, Men's Team (full line-up): RV Alvarez, Alfredo Barredo, Enriqueto Belauro, Marlon Capariño, Epifanio Catubig, Christopher Cerbito, Norlan Chan, Edward Dayo, Julius Desullan, Carlito Enterina, Roderick Espares, Rudy Espelimburgo, Gerwin Garay, Jason Indonila, Dante Jardin, Jeffrey Leona, Ace Lezada, Junjur Makasaehe, Roel Mendez, Emilio Mendoza, Armen Menor, Ferdinand Miras, Alberto Pasia, Reynaldo Pasia, Romeo Perocho, Democrito Relox, Efren Relox, Ricky Repil, Neil Savio, Eric Tauro and Kenneth Christian Tolin.
Coaches: Arthur Fronda and Leo Robert Viajar.

The UE Tracksters, Women's Team (full line-up): Leah Adan, Annie Albania, Analiza Cruz, Joan Erespe, Rosel Espinas, Julie Rose Forbes, Meriam Fortunato, Amelia Francisco, Rizza Garcia, Virgie Jaro, Grace Macalipay, Mercedita Manipol, Mary Grace Melgar and Glenda Rojo.
Head Coach: Elma Muros-Posadas. **Assistant Coach:** George Posadas.

RECORD SIZE? Local government officials share with their constituents the giant rice cake displayed during the Banayan Festival in Banaybanay, Davao Oriental. ANTHONY ALLADA

Festival features biggest 'bibingka'

By Anthony S. Allada
Banaybanay, Davao Oriental

BANAYBANAY, a rustic town known as the rice granary of Davao Oriental, made history last week when it baked the country's, if not the world's, biggest rice cake (*bibingka*).

The making of the giant rice cake, measuring 10 feet in diameter, was part of the week-long celebration of the 2nd Banayan Festival. The event was fully documented as the local government aimed at making it to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Melecio Solatorio, chief rice cake baker in the neighboring town of Mati, said it took 31 persons and 41 hours to bake the cake.

Solatorio said the ingredients used included 75 kilograms of Banaybanay rice, 56 kilos of white sugar, 400 coconuts, eight gallons of coconut wine (*tuba*), 50 young coconuts, five kilos of desiccated coconut, a kilo of sesame seeds, and coconut jam.

He said the local government shelled out at least P50,000, including payment for labor and the cake mold, to bake the biggest rice cake.

Romeo Jardenico, regional director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, said the cake tasted delicious as he initiated the ceremonial slicing of the cake.

In a few minutes, the cake disappeared from the display area after Mayor Eva Geollegue called on her constituents to partake of it. Most of the people belonged to the town's pioneering clans and were participating in various clan competitions. They said they were pleased to see that the biggest cake was baked in their hometown using their main harvest—Banaybanay rice.

Goellegue said the Banayan Festival was a celebration of thanksgiving for a bountiful harvest, a way of uniting the *lumad*, Moros and Christians in her town, and a reunion of the different clans that first settled in the municipality.

The event had for its theme "Tracing the Roots, Seeing the Fruits," which meant searching for the origin of Banaybanay to the different clans that settled in the town and extending them recognition and gratitude.

The UE Alumni Association, Inc.
congratulates with pride and joy

The UE Red Warriors
The Champion of Champions
in the first-ever UAAP-NCAA* Showdown for Bantay-Bata 163
October 2002, Rizal Memorial Coliseum

The UE Red Warriors Senior Men's Team: Jhayson Alminario, Paul Anthony Artadi, Arnold Booker, Philip Butel, Rommel Niño Canaleta, Jay Arr Estrada, Dean Paolo Hubalde, Roberts Labagala, Roly Joey Masbang, Ollan Olivar Omiping, Mark Louie Pradas, Charles Tan, Ronald Tubid and James Carlos Yap
Head Coach: David "Boysie" Zamar
Assistant Coaches: Djalma Arnedo and Gino Manuel.

Individual Awardees:
James Carlos Yap — Most Valuable Player of the tournament
Ronald Tubid — Most Valuable Player of the finals
James Carlos Yap and Ollan Olivar Omiping — Members, Mythical Five Selection
David "Boysie" Zamar – Best Coach

65th UAAP Season Basketball Awardees:
David "Boysie" Zamar – Coach of the Year
UE Red Warriors – 3rd Place, Men's Basketball Tournament
James Carlos Yap – Member-Forward, Mythical Five Selection, Men's Division (Yap was the top scorer with an average of 20.14 points per game.)
Marcelino Arellano – Most Valuable Player and Member-Guard, Mythical Five Selection, Juniors' Division

* University Athletic Association of the Philippines-National Collegiate Athletic Association

Building peace. . .

From page A16

Keon, a former Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) official, said it was very "refreshing and nice to touch base with our Mindanao brothers and see for oneself the true condition of the place as opposed to the images projected by media."

Interaction

The Ilocanos interacted with athletes from Mindanao in the next five days through their contingents in taekwando and track and field.

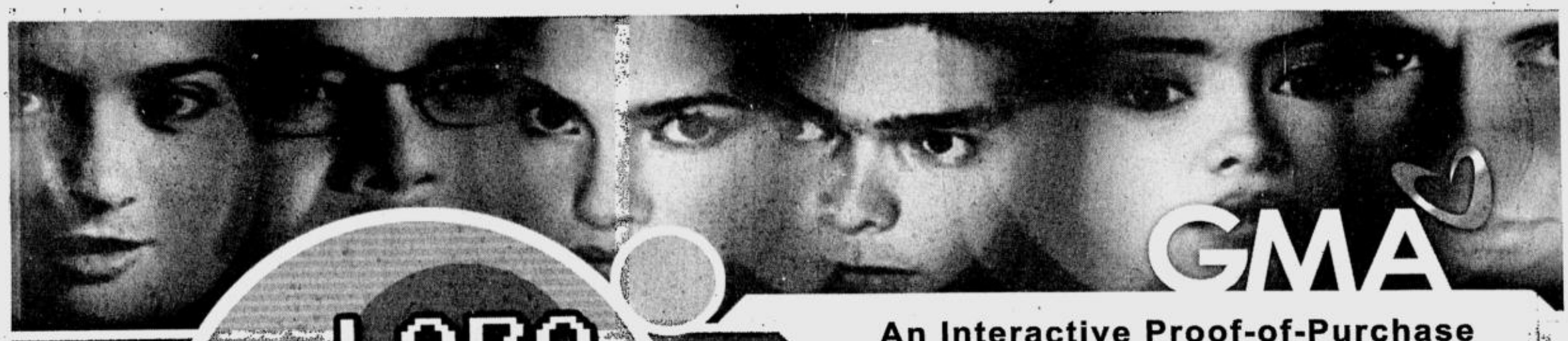
The second holding of the Games had its many firsts. It was the first time for Tawi-tawi to participate; so with Zamboanga Sibugay and Compostela Valley, the new provinces in Mindanao. Sibugay was carved out of the then vast Zamboanga del Norte, and Compostela Valley from the Davao provinces.

Though soldiers were visible, security was not much of a concern among the thousands of people who came to watch the opening.

In welcoming the visitors in this city of flowers and friendship, Cagayan de Oro Mayor Vicente Emano said Mindanao unity has advanced with the growth of the Games, and this will continue to be so with the undying commitment of the localities.

During the opening ceremonies, sports officials also launched the Mindanao Institute of Sports that will be housed at the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, where the first Games was hosted.

The third Games will be held in Mati, Davao Oriental.



LARO LARO Sinta

TELEDRAMA PROMO

GMA

An Interactive Proof-of-Purchase Nationwide Promo

2.8 MILLION PESOS WORTH OF CASH PRIZES TO BE WON!

P300,000.00 ANG IPAMIMIGAY LINGGO-LINGGO!
AT SA 8th WEEK P600,000.00 ANG MAPAPANALUNAN
AT ISA ANG GRAND PRIZE WINNER NG
P100,000.00

Subaybayan ang Habang Kapiling Ka* Simula sa Lunes, November 4!

Registration

1. For a texter to qualify, he/she must:
   a. own a mobile phone;
   b. be a subscriber of Globe Handyphone (Globe), Smart Telecommunications (Smart), or Talk 'n Text (TnT), whether in post paid or pre- paid plans;
   c. be a registered member of GMA's interactive services.
2. Televiewers will have to register first before they can join Laro-Laro Sinta.
3. In their mobile phone's message editor, they have to enter the following information in the correct format and sequence as shown below:

   Syntax: REG Name / Age / Gender / Complete Address
   Example: REG Martha Buera / 38 / F / 123 Rizal St, Taft Ave. Manila

4. The registration entry should be sent to 4627 for Smart and Talk n' Text Subscribers, or to 2344 for Globe subscribers.
5. All information is required for the registration process.
6. A confirmation text will be sent for every correct registration.

   Salamat at nag-register! Tandaan: isang beses lang kailangan mag-register.

7. In cases when the registered person wants to unregister, he/she would have to do so by keying in the keyword below:

   Syntax: Unregister

8. A text will be sent back to confirm unregistering of texter.

   Ikaw ay naka-unregister na. Kung nais ulit sumali, Type: Reg Name / Age / Gender / Address. Example: REG Martha Buera / 38 / F / 123 Rizal St., Taft Ave., Manila

9. To register again, they would have to repeat step three (3) of the registration process (see above).
10. All information sent will be kept confidential and will be used solely for GMA's Interactive Games.
11. Registration is a one-time process per SIM card.
12. Successful message sending costs P2.00 (Globe) and/or P2.50 (Smart and Talk n' Text)

Laro-laro Sinta Mechanics

1. The promotion requires a minimum single receipt food purchase of Php 100.00 from Jollibee within the promo period.
2. Every day, one (1) plot driven question which requires two (2) answers will be flashed at the end of each teledrama.
3. Televiewers can play the game by sending their answer that follows the format below:

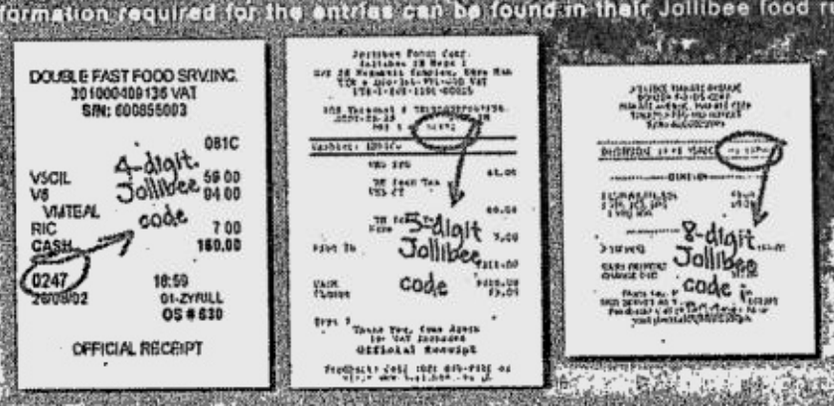
   Syntax: IPlay [teledrama keyword] [Answer1][Answer2] / [Jollibee Code] / [Jollibee Branch] / [Date of Purchase]
   Example: IPlay HKK DA / 1234 / Kamias / 090402

   Where teledrama keyword consists of the following:

   - o HKK for Habang Kapiling Ka
   - o AIAI for Ang Iibigin ay Ikaw
   - o SAINN for Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga
   - o KMK for Kung Mawawala Ka

   Where Jollibee Code is a 4-, 5- or 8-digit numeric code found on the receipt. This is a unique number combination per day, per branch and per transaction.
   Jollibee Branch is the branch where purchase was made.
   Date of Purchase is the date when the purchase was made

4. Text entries should be sent to 4627 for Smart and Talk n' Text Subscribers or to 2344 for Globe Subscribers.
5. All information required for the entries can be found in their Jollibee food receipt.



6. Entries with the correct answer will receive an acknowledgement text:

   Pwede kang manalo ng maiilaking premyo mula a Jollibee & GMA! Mag-Jollibee at mag-txt ulit para mas lumaki ang chance mo! Ang entry mo ay subject pa sa verification.

7. Text entries with the incorrect syntax, on the other hand, will receive a text back informing the texter of the correct syntax with an example:

   MT1: (1/2) Sundin ang tamang format: IPlay [teledrama keyword] [sagot1][sagot2] / [Jollibee code] / [Jollibee store] / [MMDDYY date of purchase]
   MT2: (2/2) Ex: IPlay HKK DA / 7330 / Jollibee Timog / 090802

8. Incorrect answers, on the other hand, will receive a text back encouraging them to try again.

   Sorry, mali ang sagot mo. Mag-text ulit para magkaroon ng chance manalo. Pwede mo pang gamitin ang Jollibee code pa na-ibi mo banggang makuha mo ang tamang sagot.

9. Jollibee Codes can be used only once. An entry with a used Jollibee code will not be accepted by the system. A text back informing the texter that the Jollibee code he/she entered was already used will be sent.

   Sorry, hindi na valid ang Jollibee code na ginamit mo. Isang beses lang pwedeng gamitin ang bawat Jollibee code.

10. Entries will be received by the system from the time the question was aired until the cut-off time which is at 4:00pm of the following day.
11. There will be no limit as to the number entries a texter wishes to send. The more entries they send, the higher chances of winning.

    Note:
    All messages sent to GMA's special access numbers cost Php 2.00 (Globe) and Php 2.50 (Smart and Tn T) per successful sending.
    Bulk order purchases and Jollibee Kiddie Party Packages are excluded from the promo.
    The time reflected by Globe and Smart network system shall be controlling.

12. Laro-laro Sinta texters who sent in his entry within the game duration but does not receive any text back must inform GMA through GMA New Media, Inc.'s (GMA NMI) Customer Service at (02) 928-7021 local 557.

    Upon calling, texters are asked to provide GMA NMI's Customer Service Representative (CSR) with the following information:
    Texter's mobile number where the entry was sent;
    The date and time the entry was sent.

    Note:
    The CSR will not have access to the actual entry sent in by the texter. This is just to verify if a text entry was received from the texter during the duration the texter provided.
    If an entry is received by the system's database, the CSR can then provide the texter with information whether his/her answer was correct.

13. The correct answer/s to Laro-laro Sinta's questions of the day will be revealed within the show on its next airing day. Correct entries are only those that followed the correct syntax and those that got the correct answer and those who complied with the requirements of the entries.
14. Qualified entries must:

    have registered to Laro-laro Sinta;
    have the correct answer to the show's question for the day;
    have submitted his/her entry within the duration of the game;
    have received a confirmation text from GMA's access numbers;
    be present at GMA's system database within the game day in play;
    have a minimum food purchase of P100 within the promo period.

15. Invalid text entries are:

    Entries with incorrect syntax;
    Entries with wrong answers;
    Entries with incomplete information from the Jollibee receipt.

16. All participants are presumed to have read and understood, and agree and abide by the game's complete rules and regulations.
17. All employees of GMA Network Inc., GMA New Media, Inc., Globe Telecoms, and Smart Communications, Jollibee Food Corp., and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining.
18. A texter (unique SIM card number) can win more than once within the duration of the promo but only once within one (1) day game duration.

Determination of Winning Text Entries:

1. Winners for a specific teledrama will only be drawn from the particular teledrama where they participated in.
2. Winners will be drawn from the qualified entries received within the active playing day's duration, which is from the time that the question was aired until 4:00 pm of the following day.
3. Gaming durations are the following:

   HKK - from 7:00pm of playing day until 4:00pm the following day
   AIAI - from 7:30pm of playing day until 4:00pm the following day
   SAINN - from 8:00pm of playing day until 4:00pm the following day
   KMK - from 8:30pm of playing day until 4:00pm the following day

4. Entries will be drawn randomly drawn by a computer.
5. Drawing of winners will be done weekly.
6. The "Board of Judges" composed of a duly authorized representative from each of the Teledramas and/or Jollibee Food Corp. from GMA NMI, and the assigned DTI Representative for the particular game will supervise the drawing of winners. This will be held at the GMA NMI office every Monday, 4:00 pm.
7. Winners will be notified by a text from GMA's special access number, a call from GMA NMI's authorized representative and by registered mail.
8. Winners will also be announced within the Teledrama block, following the draw, that is, from Tuesday night up to Friday of the following week through a winner's plug.
9. Winners must present the following when claiming their prize:
   a. A congratulatory text coming from GMA's Access Numbers;
   b. Actual receipt that contains the winning Jollibee Code indicated in the text entry;
   c. A valid ID with picture and address;
   d. Proof of age such as, but not limited to, birth certificate, driver's license or passport;
   e. The SIM card where the entry was made;
   f. The registered mail they received from GMA.

Prizes

1. For the first seven (7) weeks, the prizes are as follows:
   a. One (1) winner per teledrama per day.
   b. There will be a total of twenty (20) winners of Php 15,000.00 each per week.
2. For the 8th week:
   a. One (1) winner per teledrama per day.
   b. There will be a total of twenty (20) winners of Php 30,000.00 each.
   c. One (1) winner of Php100,000 will be drawn from all qualified entries for the whole promo period.
3. All prizes exceeding Php 10,000.00 shall be subject to 20 % tax and shall be shouldered by the winner.
4. Qualified winners must claim their prizes within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification. Failure to claim within allotted time duration forfeits the winner's right over the prize with prior DTI approval.
5. All prizes may be claimed at the GMA NMI office in Quezon City. For winners outside GMA, GMA NMI shall contact the winner and make arrangements for claiming the prize.

Week No.	Dates to Watch	Cut-Off of Entries	Draw
1	Sept 30 – Oct 4	Oct 1 – 5 (every 4pm)	Oct 7
2	Oct 7 – 11	Oct 8 – 12 (every 4pm)	Oct 14
3	Oct 14 – 18	Oct 15 – 19 (every 4pm)	Oct 21
4	Oct 21 – 25	Oct 22 – 26 (every 4pm)	Oct 28
5	Oct 28 – Nov 1	Oct 29 – Nov 2 (every 4pm)	Nov 4
6	Nov 4 – 8	Nov 5 – 9 (every 4pm)	Nov 11
7	Nov 11 – 15	Nov 12 – 16 (every 4pm)	Nov 18
GRAND DRAW			
8	Nov 18 – 22	Nov 19 – 23 (every 4pm)	Nov 25

Decisions by the Board of Judges are final with concurrence to DTI.

*Approved by DTI-NCR
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3970 Series of 2002*

Habang Kapiling Ka — *Sana ay Ikaw na Nga*

KUNG MAWAWALA KA ANG IIBIGIN AY IKAW

GMA NMI GMA NEW MEDIA, INC. Jollibee

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC.

2002 ANNUAL CONVENTION & 56TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

November 5-8, 2002 • Philippine International Convention Center

"New Frontiers to Conquer, New Challenges to Meet"

MESSAGES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

My warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. on the occasion of your 56th Anniversary Celebration.

Your organization's efforts help our physicians to keep abreast with the current trends in the profession, particularly in the care of women during and after pregnancy and in the treatment of disorders of the female reproductive sytem.

This year's convention with its theme, "New Frontiers to Conquer, New Challenges to Meet," is another manifestation of your strong commitment to render quality medical services to our people. May this occasion inspire you to continuously upgrade your expertise in this specialized field of medicine and to intensify your efforts in ensuring a healthy Filipino nation.

I enjoin you to continue administering to the health needs of every citizen, especially the poor and disadvantaged women.

May you have a fruitful convention, MABUHAY!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

It is indeed a great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation), Inc. on its 2002 Annual Convention and 56th Anniversary Celebration.

Allow me to express my sincerest gratitude to your continued support to the programs and goals of the Department of Health (DOH). Your commitment and dedication to improve the delivery of healthcare services in obstetrical and gynecological health attest to the Filipino's spirit of determination, courage and professionalism.

The Department of Health recognizes your efforts and extends its full support in your persistent effort of uplifting your profession to a higher level. As you plan for the future, the DOH is confident that your society will provide essential opportunities and benefits to your members and further improve your services to cater the growing needs of time.

I urge all the participants to continue to partner with us in achieving greater heights in the pursuit of excellence in healthcare, especially that which is directed towards improving the quality of life of our poor Filipino brothers and sisters.

Once again, my congratulations to your organization for the continuous exchange and sharing of health advancements and technical expertise and for strengthening the professional skills of obstetricians and gynecologists nationwide.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

MANUEL M. DAYRIT, MD, MSc
Secretary of Health

PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Governors of the Philippine Medical Association, we convey special greetings to the officers and members of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation) Inc., on the occasion of its 2002 Annual Convention and its 56th Anniversary Celebration.

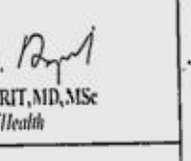
We happily join you in welcoming the participants and delegates to this important double header of a celebration. You, the men and women at the helm of the POGS deserve highest commendation for leaving no stone unturned to provide world class scientific sessions for obstetricians and gynecologists by inviting a host of experts from other shores besides ours to share knowledge and expertise. Your theme, "New Frontiers to Conquer, New Challenges to Meet" speaks aptly of the vision and mission of the POGS in the pursuit of excellence to keep in step with new trends in healthcare and to translate scientific advances into healthcare realities. We truly wish you a most successful and meaningful annual convention and anniversary celebration.

"PMA 100 Years - Continuing the Challenge for a Healthy Nation", the annual convention theme, enjoins you to vigorously continue bringing effective and affordable healthcare to our people. At the same time we ask you to celebrate with us the 100th Anniversary of the PMA on September 15, 2003, on the centennial theme, "100 Years of the PMA in Nation Building - Service to the People for a Healthy Philippines".

Congratulations. Mabuhay ang Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (Foundation) Inc.

GIL C. FERNANDEZ, M.D.
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY



To culminate what had been a fruitful year of dedicated service to the profession of obstetrics and gynecology, the PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), Inc., bring forth its Annual Convention and 56th Anniversary Celebration with the theme, "New Frontiers to Conquer, New Challenges to Meet". Committed to the quest for continuing medical education, the Organizing Committee has queued a series of interesting topics in the scientific program to satiate the delegates' appetite for knowledge and information. We have requested very able and renowned lecturers, both foreign and homegrown, to deliver to us the controversies, consensus and updates on these topics.

We also hope for this convention to be a congenial venue for camaraderie among the members of the Society. Through the numerous fellowship activities we have lined-up for you, may old ties be strengthened and new ones formed.

In behalf of the officers of the Society, I wish to thank all the members and supporters of POGS for their much valued contribution to help us reach our goals and make this year a successful and productive one. I hope you will once again render your unfailing patronage for this Convention to successfully serve its purpose.

GREG B. PASTORFIDE, M.D.
President

PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Welcome to your convention, dear members and guests of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society! The organizing committee has worked for the past 10 months to have a convention that truly reflects the theme, "New Frontiers to Conquer, New Challenge to Meet." The scientific committee has made sure that the topics and speakers will indeed tell us how to conquer these new frontiers in obstetrics and gynecology and how to meet the challenges that present time and again in our practice. The sports, socials, and hospitality committees has made sure that this time of reunion & reminiscing, fellowship and camaraderie will make us go back home with warm memories of touching base with old friends and mentors. The arrangements and registrations committees have come up with a system that would minimize chaos during the various activities of the convention. The souvenir program, documentation, and programs and invitations committees have made sure that the convention will not be soon forgotten but will go down POGS history "in black and white." Finally the exhibits and ways and means committees left no stone unturned to ensure a profitable convention for all.

My personal congratulations to the new Diplomates and Fellows that will be added to the proud roster of POGS membership, some of whom I can proudly say were products of my mentorship. As you start your official status as POGS members, may you work towards excellence in your craft and true service to the people whom you pledge to care for. May you make our society proud of you.

Earth-shaking events (literally) in the world may change landmarks and topography but the spirit that is in us will never change because those in the medical profession are of a special breed. May we ever continue to be of that "special breed" who will never fail to rise up to challenges and conquer difficulties. Mabuhay kayong lahat.

LYRA RUTH CLEMENTE-CHUA, M.D., FPOGS
Vice President & Overall Chair, Organizing Committee

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Region 10 - Northern Mindanao

REGINA DE LA PAZ-INGENTE, M.D.
Region 11 - Southern Mindanao

Guest of Honor and Inducting Officer

TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.
Vice President
Philippines

Awardees

VIRGILIO B. OBLEPIAS, M.D.
Baldomero Roxas Awardee for Academic Distinction

CESAR C. UBALDO, M.D.
Ramon Lopez Memorial Awardee For Community Service

GENARA A. MANUEL-LIMSON, M.D.
Honoria Acosta Sison Awardee for Research

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Registration

WALFRIDO W. SUMPAICO, M.D.
Scientific Program

ZENY M. MALILAY, M.D.
Socials

JUANITO M. TEOTICO, M.D.
Sports

VIRGILIO M. NOVERO, M.D.
Souvenir Program

GLORIA G. HABALO, M.D.
Ways and Means

Convention Highlights

DAY 1 • TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 5, 2002

5:30 AM	Walk for a Cause
8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration
4:30 PM	Opening Ceremonies (Grand Ballroom, WPPH)
6:00 PM	Welcome Reception (Grand Ballroom, WPPH)

DAY 2 • WEDNESDAY • NOVEMBER 6, 2002

8:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Plenary Lectures Reproductive Endocrinology (WPPH Ballroom)
12:15 PM - 2:00 PM	Annual Business Meeting (Ballroom WPPH)
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Simultaneous Sessions (Meeting Rooms 2 & 3, 4, 5 PICC)
6:00 PM	Fellowship Night (Grand Ballroom, Westin Philippine Plaza)

DAY 3 • THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 7, 2002

8:00 AM - 12:00 NN	Plenary Lectures (Maternal and Fetal Medicine) (WPPH Ballroom-Luzon & Visayas)
12:00 NN - 1:30 PM	Simultaneous Luncheon Symposia
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Poster Session
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Simultaneous Sessions (MR 2,3,4,5)

DAY 4 • FRIDAY • NOVEMBER 8, 2002

8:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Plenary Lectures (Oncology) (Ballroom, WPPH)
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Simultaneous Luncheon Symposia (PICC)
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Poster Sessions (Lobby Main Entrance, PICC)
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Residents' Research Paper Contest Simultaneous Session (MR 2 & 3, 4, 5 PICC)
6:00 PM	Closing Ceremonies (Grand Ballroom Westin Philippine Plaza)

BIOMEDIS, INC.
pH care
INTIMATE WASH

New tech lets you build a house in 3 days

From page A1

fective heat insulator.

Aside from providing added income for sugarcane farmers, sugarcane bagasse also helps preserve trees.

Demetrio L. Posadas, president of the Creba social housing foundation, presented the sugarcane bagasse-steel technology during the World Habitat celebration at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City last month. A socialized housing developer himself, Posadas has done research on alternative housing technologies from several countries and found this type of technology the fastest and most economical. Several units in his resort in Calapan City in Oriental Mindoro were built using this technology, he said, and so far his houses haven't been attacked by termites or ants.

But how about the machine to put it all together? "You could bring the Scottsdale anywhere. If you want to build 500 units in General Santos City, for example, all you have to do is to place the machine there, together with the materials," he said.

POSADAS' cottages at the Cocofarm Spring Resort in Calapan City.

'Like Lego'

Posadas said the procedure for making the house is simple. Just put the housing plan in a computer. The computer then works on the plan and comes up with the number of steel frames needed, indicating the precise size.

"It's just like playing Lego," he said, referring to the popular children's toy.

As the cut materials from the machine are produced, the community can then employ the tried and tested *bayanihan* spirit to help each other out and fast-track the process. One laborer, for example, can handle the material while the other operates the drill. Technical people can be sent in to guide the community. This way, Posadas said, labor costs become very minimal.

Such a community built on this technology is now being planned in San Juan, Batangas. Another association under the Community Mortgage Program in Bulacan is being formed. Local government housing projects will soon start in Pinugay, Antipolo, Posadas said.

"The objective is to apply the technology to the urban poor," he said.

And what's to stop the more affluent crowd from using this technology? Nothing, Posadas said.

One for Guinness

The other way of building a small house in three days may be one for the Guinness Book of World Records. Some 300 pieces of a specialized hollow block called Signature Blocks, its inventor claims, can be set on 22 layers in one hour—and even by unskilled hands. That means a family of three can finish the walling of a whole single-level house in about the same time.

In contrast, conventional hollow blocks can only be set on five layers at the rate of 200 pieces per day.

Using conventional construction materials and employing five to 10 laborers, a typical low-cost 20-sq.m. house would cost between P70,000 and P100,000, and would take 45 to 60 days to build.

Inventor Manuel Cruz, however, claims that with Signature Blocks, it would take only three to four days for unskilled laborers to finish a 25-sq.m. house.

Cruz, a mechanical engineer, said a 20-sq.m. house will cost P52,700, or P2,635 per sq.m.

Using conventional hollow blocks, a house of the same size will costs P96,000, or P4,800 per sq.m.

Because of the horizontal recesses in each design of the Signature Block, every layer of the blocks have existing microbeams to support a given wall. This allows the Signature Blocks to be placed directly on top of each other. In contrast, conventional hollow blocks need mortar in between each layer.

Livelihood opportunity

Cruz said his technology might even solve another, non-housing problem. "Relocated residents complain that they have no jobs in the area. I can lease them the concrete hollow block maker and teach them how to make hollow blocks needed for the construction of the house. No skilled labor is needed," he said.

With an initial investment of P10,000 to purchase material for the production of hollow blocks on site, a family can make 3,000 hollow blocks.

Signature Blocks are already used in private residences in Barangay Silangan, San Mateo, Rizal; Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club in Lipa City, Batangas; Filinvest in Barangay Langgam, San Pedro, Laguna; and in Dexterville Homes and Monterra Homes in Barangay Bucandala, Imus, Cavite.

Cruz said he will also introduce his technology to the international market, starting with Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

But Cruz said he believed his cast-in-place concrete block system was not only the fastest hollow-block builder around; it's also the strongest.

"A house should last a hundred years, and should withstand the toughest storms and earthquakes," he said.

'Working' ...

From page A1

and another Filipino journalist, Gabriel "Jun" Gabriel, were quizzed after they said they were in Guam "to work" and cover a ceremony honoring Philippine Airlines chair Lucio C. Tan.

Macasaet is chair and publisher of Malaya. Gabriel is chief news cameraman of the National Broadcasting Network.

Macasaet was released and allowed to enter Guam after a verbal exchange with two immigration officers. Gabriel was allowed in after he signed a "visa waiver" and paid $195. The waiver in effect allows him to work as a TV cameraman in Guam although he only has a B-1, B-2 (tourist) visa.

Macasaet and Gabriel are with a group of journalists who attended a ceremony honoring Tan last night. The awards conferred on the taipan include the honorary title of ambassador at large given by Guam Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez.

Publisher's account

The Malaya publisher recounted his experience thus:

A US immigration officer asked him: "What are you here for—pleasure or work?"

Macasaet answered, "I don't know, but I'm going to write a story about the awards to be conferred on Dr. Lucio Tan of Philippine Airlines. If that is work, then I'm going to work."

"I'm going to write the story because I'm a journalist," he added.

The immigration officer called another officer by the name of D. Deviera who, Macaset said, looked like a "Latino" type. Deviera asked him to step into the holding room of the immigration area.

Deviera then asked Macasaet if he worked in his previous travels to other countries, and he answered, "No."

"How come you said you're going to write an award story?" Deviera asked.

Macasaet repeated his previous answer—that if writing a story is work to him (Deviera), "then I'm going to work."

"Did you get a B-1 visa?" Deviera asked, and Macasaet said he didn't even know what a B-1 visa was.

Deviera said that if Macasaet wanted to work in the United States (Guam being a US protectorate), he should get a permit to work.

Macasaet said he dared Deviera to put him on the next plane back to Manila if he thought that he was breaking US law. But Deviera adopted a conciliatory attitude and let Macasaet leave the holding room and enter Guam.

Cameraman's story

Gabriel said he was asked by a black immigration officer (he could not remember the man's name) what he was going to do in Guam.

Gabriel said he answered that he was invited by PAL to cover the award ceremony for Tan.

He said he was a professional cameraman of the government TV station NBN, the former Channel 4.

But the immigration officer said that since Gabriel holds only a B-1, B-2 visa, he could not work in Guam.

In the end, the problem was resolved after the immigration officer suggested that Gabriel sign a "visa waiver" and pay $195. With the waiver, Gabriel can now cover the award ceremony.

Gabriel recalled that he used to have an I or journalist visa but it was changed to a B-1, B-2 visa by the US Embassy in Manila when it granted him a new 10-year visa in 1997.

All told, Macasaet and Gabriel were detained for less than an hour.

Dream big, Cordillera children told

From page A1

translated into the local language by Dr. Martha Cayad-an, who spent her childhood in Barangay Payeo in Besao.

Like Hill, Cayad-an received a hero's welcome in her hometown for her achievements as a medical doctor and as Unicef program officer for Mt. Province.

A child's determination

As Hill roamed around the schools in Barangay Capinitan, Sagada, he saw 8-year-old Braille Bacagan who is determined to finish school despite his family's poverty.

Bacagan wakes up at 6 a.m. and walks for about 10 minutes through tall grasses and pine trees to fetch water in a well from another mountain.

He eats boiled *camote*, *pechay* or squash before going to school.

But unlike most children raised in the cities, he does not complain about his daily vegetable fare. He loves vegetables because his father is a farmer.

At 7 a.m., Bacagan carries his woven knapsack and hikes for 15 to 20 minutes to attend his classes.

He excels in Math and is determined to become a firefighter in his homctown.

For Bacagan, acquiring quality education is the best inheritance his family could give him. "My grandparents cannot read or write. They encourage me to finish school so I could become a better person," he said, speaking in Bontoc.

Standing tall

In Bontoc, 7-year-old Alvin Limmayog cannot climb mountains or fetch water like other children because his legs are too small and the pail is too big for him.

Limmayog is only about three feet tall and suffers from hemiplegia, which paralyzed his arms and hands.

But in one shining moment, Alvin stood tall and proud when he sang "Ako ay Pilipino" in front of students and officials of the Special Education Center and Unicef.

Although he could not pronounce some of the words clearly, Alvin sang with so much emotion and intensity that it moved most of the audience to tears.

For a special child like Limmayog, big things come in small packages as he keeps entertaining people with his wit and talent. His height does not bother him.

"I want to become a celebrity someday. I want to be a singer," the boy said after waving and bowing before the delighted crowd.

Bacagan and Limmayog do not know each other but they have one thing in common: they are exerting efforts to achieve their dreams and make their illiterate grandparents proud.

Defying poverty

They are just two of the hundreds of indigenous children in this vegetable-producing province who are defying poverty and physical difficulties to make their homes better places to live in.

In Mt. Province, it is common to find children in the fields, helping their parents till the land and plant vegetables. Because of poverty, some do not go to school and are forced to work to survive.

This is why many elders in the province cannot read or write. They have no choice but to spend their lifetime tending their vegetable farms to feed their families.

Disturbed by this scenario, Gov. Sario Malinias and other government officials sat down and vowed to make Mt. Province a child-friendly province.

In 1999, Unicef chose Mt. Province as pilot area in the Cordillera for the "Child Friendly Movement," Hill's brainchild.

Cayad-an returned to her home province to coordinate with the provincial government and help get the indigenous communities involved in advocacy programs, such as maternal care, health and nutrition, education and child protection.

"We face a tough job educating mothers in remote areas about the proper way of rearing their children because they strongly hold on to their traditions, beliefs and customs. It takes time before they cooperate," she said.

Cayad-an exhorted the natives to help her make their communities child-friendly.

Her patience eventually paid off.

Last year, Mt. Province beat other provinces when it passed a provincial code for children and a development plan for children. Provincial leaders also reorganized councils for the protection of children in the villages, towns and province and documented indigenous child-rearing practices.

Increasing literacy

Malinias, in his "State of Mt. Province's Children Report," said the province was showing a rapid improvement in literacy rate.

From 71.11 percent in 1992, the literacy rate soared to 90.96 in 1997, he said.

Unicef has provided educational materials to government schools in the province. Hill said this would help the children develop the habit of reading while they are still young.

"The acquisition of books and other school materials is seen as the reason for the decreasing repeater rate among school-age children. From a high of 3.27 percent in 1995-1996, it dropped to 2.4 percent in 2000-2001," Malinias said.

To further expand the Unicef's education program, Hill opened the "Knowledge Center" here last month.

Malinias said there was also a big decline in the number of children working for wages, especially among the major vegetable-producing towns. From 623 cases in 1994, this was reduced to 138 three years later. Last year, the Department of Labor and Employment listed only 12 cases of child labor.

Jocelyn Culaling, DOLE provincial extension unit officer, said the number of children going to school instead of working in the farms was increasing in the province's 10 towns.

Dr. Evelyn Capuyan, Sagada health officer, said a community health insurance program had also been put in place so more mothers can avail themselves of regular immunization and consultation services.

Healing touch of Sister Raquel

From page A1

money nor transport to get there.

In desperation, she put the tattered article on her belly and pleaded aloud: "Lord, please heal me through Sister Raquel and Mother Ignacia (founder of the Religious of the Virgin Mary, and now undergoing investigation in Rome for beatification)."

In 30 minutes the pain vanished. After a week she had a second checkup and her doctor discovered that the cancer had disappeared into thin air.

Subsequently, she was able to travel to Novaliches, Caloocan City, and meet Sister Raquel in person. When the people there were asked to give testimony about their healing experiences, she grabbed the microphone and told her story. The assembly clapped and called her tattered piece of paper the "healing article."

Another Cabanatuan woman who had cancer of the throat could no longer eat and was being fed through a tube. She lay inside the hut in Sister Raquel's garden.

Sister Raquel blessed a towel wet with water, wrapped it around the woman's neck, and prayed over her. And the woman who was so weak she could not stand up unassisted immediately rose on her own.

It was not the tattered article that healed but the Lord, Sister Raquel explained. The Lord uses earthly instruments to heal—for example, the water or towel used during healing sessions, physical objects by which He gives His blessings.

"In all these stories of healing, there is only one message the Lord wants to give to the whole world: the Truth of His interest in each one of us," Sister Raquel said.

"All you need to do is pray, and He will bless you," she added. "It is between you and the Lord. I am just an instrument, a bridge. Ask and you shall receive. Pray to Him and you are connected to Him. These instruments are His way of reaching out to us. *Kahit anong hilingin mo, ibibigay Niya—isa lang ang kondisyon: magpakabait ka* (He will grant you any request under one condition: that you become pure in spirit)."

Cranky

A woman afflicted with eczema came to Sister Raquel asking to be healed.

Her feet—black like roasted eggplants, swollen and scaly—were bare because of the pain, and she could hardly walk.

Instinctively, Sister Raquel asked her: "*Masungit ka ba* (Are you cranky)?"

The woman was not surprised and answered instantly: "*Ay, Sister, napaka* (yes, very)."

"Why are you cranky, anyway?"

"Sister, I have a small store at home. Every day, my two nephews ask for P5—such freeloaders!"

"Your eczema is a reminder of your being cranky. You must stop being cranky if you want to be healed."

"OK, Sister, I will try. I promise."

And the woman did try. When the nephews asked for money, she gave it with a smile.

It was hard in the beginning, but prayer made her change. On her fifth visit, she came wearing Japanese slippers for the first time. She still had a bit of eczema but her feet had improved a lot.

The money that she saved not buying expensive lotions for her eczema, she gave to her nephews.

On her sixth visit, she testified that while taking a bath, she suddenly looked at her feet—and lo and behold, they were smooth as silk.

A father asked Sister Raquel if his son had a chance of being healed.

The son's whole body except for the face was in the grip of eczema. The family had to sweep a dust pan full of scales every day.

He was one big wound, but he was healed. (Ask, and it will be given to you.)

A man who was deaf visited Sister Raquel, and she asked him: "*Gusto mong gumaling* (Do you want to be healed)?"

"Opo (Yes)," he answered, not realizing that his hearing had returned. His wife wept profusely.

Cancer-free

Sister Raquel has started to collect medical results as indisputable evidence of the Lord's kindness.

The cancer in a woman's breast had spread to her bones and brain. Her records later read: "Cancer-free."

Another woman's cancer of the breast had spread to her colon, threatening to spread to her bones. Like the first, her records later read: "Cancer-free." In a third case, after three months the active cancer cells became "silent." After two more months the woman's records read: "Cancer-free."

"Jesus did it," Sister Raquel said. "*Siya ang* (He is the) boss."

Many expensive operations have been preempted.

Surlita of Southern Leyte needed P550,000 for an operation on four large tumors in the brain. Her husband had already mortgaged their small farm.

She had excruciating day-long headaches and sudden fainting spells. Even her speech was impaired.

After many visits, Surlita was healed, and they returned the loan immediately. She refused to have a checkup because it would cost P6,000 and she knew she was already well, anyway.

She advised everyone to visit Sister Raquel before an operation, not after.

A man in Cagayan de Oro City had a malignant prostate tumor and was scheduled for surgery the next day. In his despair, he called for his daughter, a Carmelite nun, who requested Sister's Raquel's help.

As Sister Raquel prayed over him, he put a picture of Jesus on his crotch. She said she would not leave until she knew whether he still needed surgery.

The next day, the man requested his doctor to make a quick checkup before cutting him up.

The doctor gave in to the strange request to please his patient—and was shocked to find no more tumor.

Easy to find

Word of mouth has sent people flocking to Sister's Raquel's retreat house in Novaliches.

The INQUIRER articles are a big factor, and so many photocopies have been made and distributed. E-mails and phone calls have come from as far as the Middle East and Europe. (Free copies of articles on Sister Raquel previously published in the INQUIRER may be requested through eastwind@edsamail.com.ph.)

Those who need healing can visit the Mother Ignacia Retreat House (857 Bagumbong Road, Novaliches) without an appointment on the healing days, Wednesday and Saturday. Do not go without an appointment on non-healing days.

You can easily find the place by just asking around at the *bayan*. Come as early as possible.

You can get directions by e-mail (eastwind@edsamail.com.ph) or phone (the Marian Telephone Brigade: 911-2496, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. daily; 961-3594, 8 a.m.-8 p.m., except Saturday; 725-3587, 7:30 a.m.-12 noon, 1:30-5 p.m., except Sunday; 936-6765, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily; 878-2049, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Monday-Friday).

On occasions, Sister Raquel performs long-distance healing for sick people abroad by phone, or even locally if they are not ambulant. You can request an appointment through the Marian Telephone Brigade.

However, nothing can replace physical touch as the healing energy flows from the hands. Yes, it can travel, but the effect on Sister Raquel is draining.

SUERTRES 4 4 3
SIX DIGIT (In exact order) 4 5 8 6 3 4

SundaySPORTS
Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

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Vis-Min 6 13 24 26 31 34

VIETNAM SEA GAMES

Go appeals for marathon inclusion

By Marc Anthony Reyes

GO

"PLEASE also fight for marathon."

Athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday made that heartfelt plea to the Philippine Olympic Committee, which vowed to lobby for the inclusion of bowling and golf in the 2003 Vietnam Southeast Asian Games but not for marathon.

The country won the gold medals in the men's and women's marathon during the 2001 Kuala Lumpur SEA Games through Roy Vence and Christabel Martes. Both athletes are considered strong bets in their events after winning over Southeast Asian counterparts in several tournaments this year.

Go added that he also appealed before the Asian Athletic Association as well as other national sports associations to help his cause.

"If he can fight for the two sports why not fight for marathon also?" said Go. "We also won two golds in marathon last SEA Games."

Go, a staunch critic of POC president Celso Dayrit, said he is willing to set aside "political differences" with the Olympic chief just so marathon can be included.

"We are talking of two golds medals being taken away from our country," said Go. "That's way too important than our differences in the past."

Dayrit said there is a big chance that bowling and golf will be considered in the SEAG calendar but marathon will be out of the question because of Ho Chi Minh's narrow streets and the high cost of staging the two events.

He was also quick to dismiss any political undertones with his decision not to appeal for marathon but added that organizers are firm on that decision also because Vietnam has no chance of winning those events.

"We also fought for marathon but I don't want to press the issue anymore," Dayrit told the INQUIRER through the phone. "Maybe we can instead field athletes in the 20K walk which is about half of the marathon's distance (42.125 km)."

Dayrit added that marathon was also not included in the 1997 Brunei SEA Games because of security reasons.

Vietnam organizers initially planned to scrap boxing bur relented after Thailand heavily lobbied for the inclusion. However, there will only be nine instead of the usual 12 categories.

Athletics delivered nine gold medals during the KL SEA Games, the most by any NSA, while bowling won four and golf captured one.

Usoc to name Games host

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado —One bid began with a failed attempt to land the 1996 Olympic Games. The other was dreamed up during a World Cup soccer game in 1994.

Years of planning, schmoozing and waiting will end Saturday when the US Olympic Committee's board of directors will choose New York or San Francisco as the American candidate to host the 2012 Summer Olympics.

"Both cities have put forth impressive cases, and it's going to be very difficult to choose between them," said Anita DeFrantz, a US member of the International Olympic Committee.

The USOC's 123-member board will vote at its annual meeting in Colorado Springs. The winner will move on to the international competition, where it will face a strong field that could include Toronto, Rome, Paris, Moscow and Rio de Janeiro. The IOC will vote in 2005. *AP*

India chessers down Pinoys

BLED, Slovenia—India dealt the Philippines a 3-1 defeat, pulling down the Filipinos to a share of the 40th to 51st places after Friday's 7th round of the 35th World Chess Olympiad here.

The women's team provided some consolation as the Filipinas, seeded a lowly 40th, drew with 23rd-ranked Israel, 1.5-1.5

Arianne Caoili avenged her loss two years ago to Grandmaster Masha Klimova in a 30-move English Defense, but Beverly Mendoza fell to Grandmaster Angela Borshuk in another 30-move English Defense.

Rookie Kathryn Cruz finally got her first draw against Irina Botvinnik after a 51-move Sicilian Defense, but post-game analysis showed that the 19-year-old St. Benilde student should have won the rook and pawn endgame.

The Filipinas take on Iran in the 8th round.

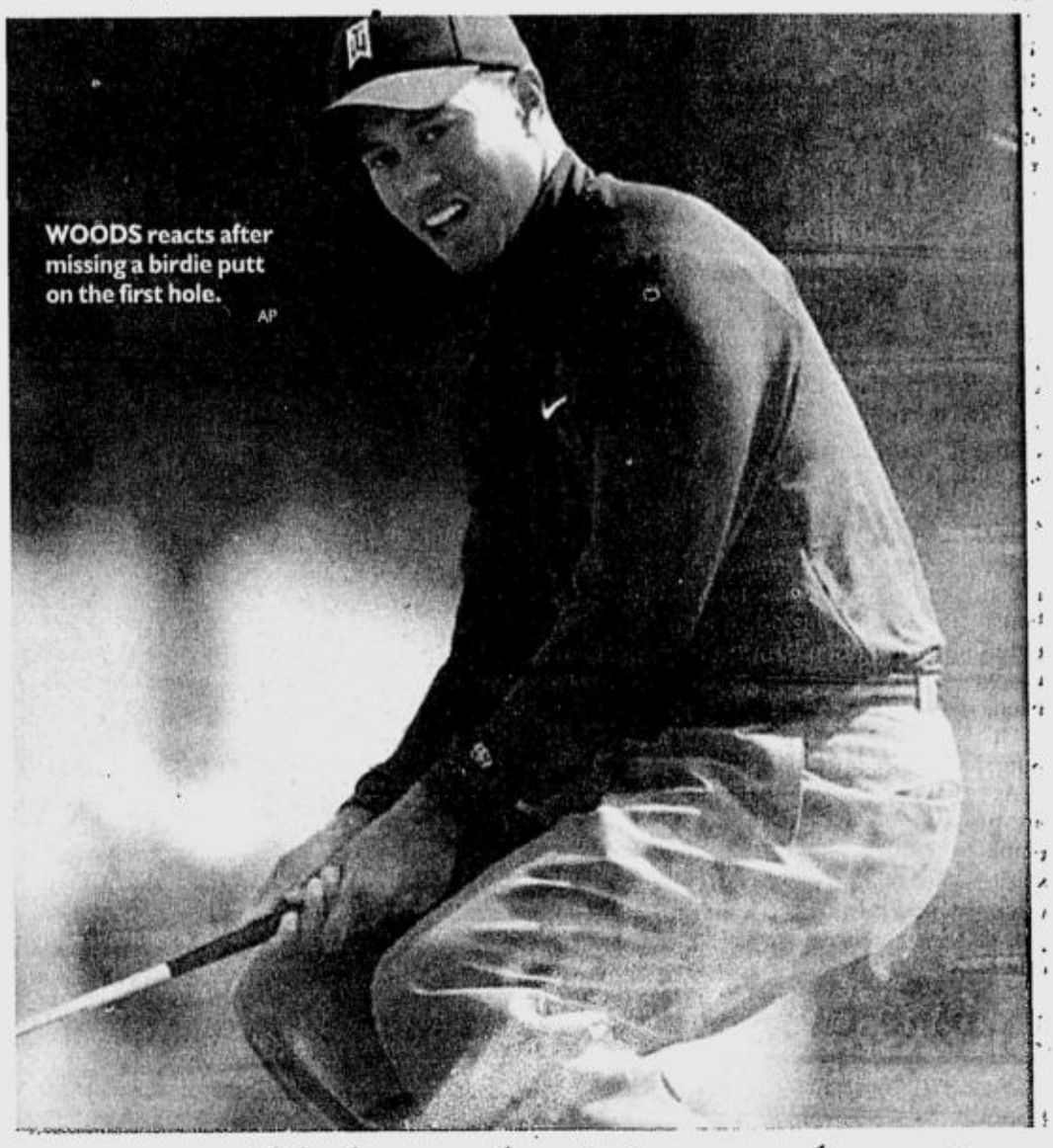
Krishnan Sasikiran downed Eugene Torre in 70 moves of an Indian Defense and Surya Sekhar Ganguly prevailed over Mark Paragua in a tactical slugfest that lasted after 41 moves of a Sicilian Defense.

Bong Villamayor settled for a draw against Pentyala Karikrisna in a 29-move Queen's Gambit Declined.

Nelson Mariano II halved the point against Praveen Thipsay after 80 moves of a Ruy Lopez.

The Philippines now have 15.5 points and will play Portugal on Saturday.

BIGGEST PAL INTERCLUB
The Philippine Airlines Interclub, the country's largest golfing event, returns to Davao City for its 56th championships from Feb. 21 to March 1, 2003. Dubbed "Where Eagles Dare," the tournament has attracted a record field of over 140 teams. Three courses will be used and a double-barrel tee-off will be introduced to speed up play. In photo to launch the event during the First Team Captain's Meeting are (from left) Celso Dapo, Interclub co-chairman; lawyer Domingo Duerme, Interclub chair; Paul Dakudao, general manager of Lanang; Jose Marfori, general manager of Rancho Palos Verdes; Gerry Romero-Salas, director of Apo; Felix Cruz, PAL vice president for marketing; and, Jesus Garcia, Interclub vice chair.


WOODS reacts after missing a birdie putt on the first hole. AP

Howell leads Tour by 1

ATLANTA—Charles Howell III realized par would be an acceptable score at windy East Lake and he did one better, posting a 69 on Friday for a one-stroke lead in the Tour Championship.

Howell finished with eight pars and was at 5-under 135 heading into the weekend, one stroke ahead of David Toms, Steve Lowery, Len Mattiace and Vijay Singh.

Howell, one of 10 players making his debut in the season-ending tournament for the top 30 on the money list, made bogey after hitting two of his best drives and didn't feel as though his score was as good as it could have been.

Then again, the swirling wind turned cooler as long shadows fell across East Lake, the greens began to dry out and got quicker on every hole and the 23-year-old knew that anything around par would be a good day at the office.

Tiger Woods is hanging around, too.

Despite consecutive bogeys at the turn, Woods finished with a 68 and was at 139, just four strokes out of the lead. *AP*

2nd round scores:

135–Charles Howell III 66-69

136–David Toms 70-66, Len Mattiace 68-68, Steve Lowery 65-71, Vijay Singh 65-71

138–Chris DiMarco 70-68, Retief Goosen 69-69, Fred Funk 67-71

139–Tiger Woods 71-68, K.J. Choi 71-68, Phil Mickelson 70-69, Scott McCarron 70-69

140–Jerry Kelly 71-69, Kenny Perry 71-69

141–Nick Price 73-68, Chris Riley 72-69, Bob Estes 72-69, John Rollins 70-71, Jim Furyk 68-73, Shigeki Maruyama 68-73

142–Ernie Els 73-69, Davis Love III 72-70, Loren Roberts 71-71, Rich Beem 70-72.

U-Bix golfest offers ₱1-M pot

CASH prizes totaling P1 million are up for grabs in the second U-Bix-Riviera National Pro Am starting Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Riviera Golf and Country Club's Couples Course.

This was bared yesterday by the men behind the revival of the Fort Bonifacio Pro Am--U-Bix president Bert Bravo, Riviera president Danny Pizarro, golf manager John Blanch and golf director Lewis Riisman.

"Once again, I would like to welcome our pros and their partners for this event, whose format is one-ball, twosome, meaning team members hit the ball alternately from the tee until the ball is holed out," Bravo said.

"This is one tournament where team work is very important," said Pizarro. "So, the guys who play as a team would be those sporting the biggest smiles at tournament's end."

"We will announce the prizes from the champion down to the 30th place later next week," Blanch and Riisman said.

A celebrity Pro Am will kick off the tournament on Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Last year, Noli Kempis and amateur partner Erwin Vinluan won the championship at the nearby Langer course with a dramatic victory over Juanito Pagunsan and his son Juyic.

The National Golf Association of the Philippines, headed by its president Rod [illegible]ano, is the lead organization handling the tournament ending Nov. 16.

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·Robinsons Town Mall Los Banos · Rockwell Pro Shop · Robinsons Starmills Pampanga
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·Robinsons Iloilo · Tutuban · Cabanatuan · Festival Supermall Alabang
·Almall Cubao · Bagulo Center Mall · Ayala Center Makati
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GMA
Kapuso ng pamilyang Pilipino, anumang kulay ng balat

Dancesport week features champs

WEEK-LONG activities will mark National Dancesport Week on Nov. 4-10 to celebrate the biggest and most colorful Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships hosted by the IDSF (International Dancesport Federation) and Dancesport Council of the Philippines starting at 1 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Philsports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City.

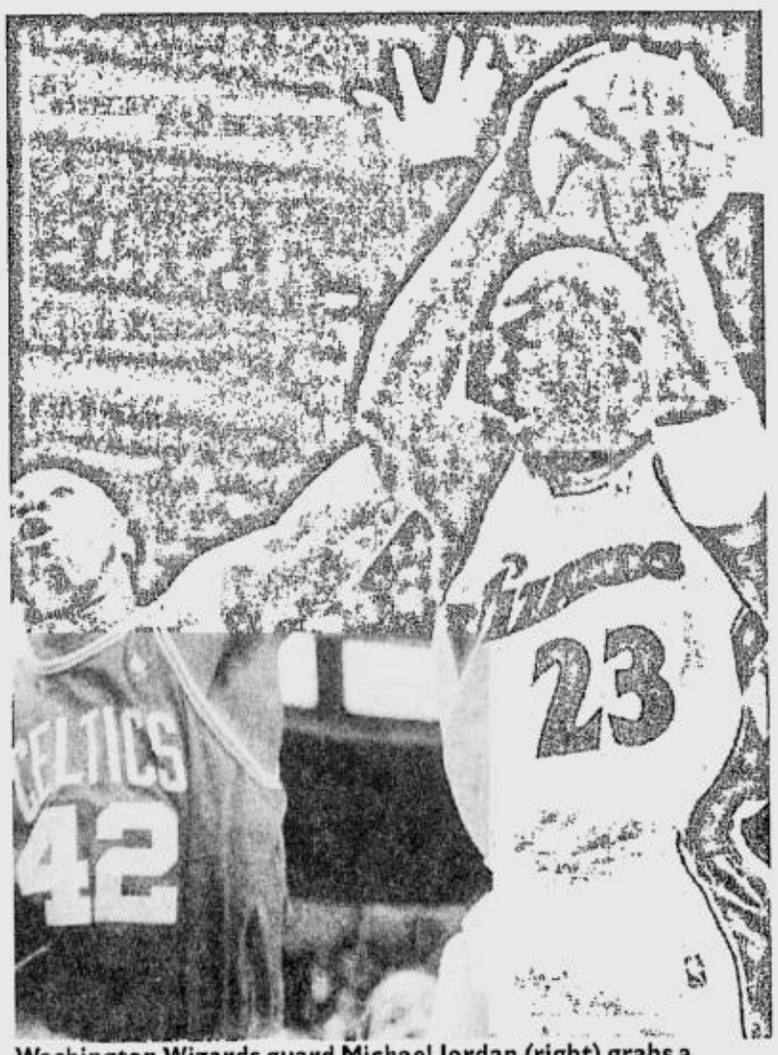
GARCIA

Philippine dance champions will show their savvy in a tour of various malls and ballroom clubs to highlight National Dancesport Week recently proclaimed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. At 11 p.m. on Monday, a dance spectacle will be held at the Conways of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel; Tuesday at the In The Mood-Malate; Wednesday (5 to 6 p.m.) at SM Megamall Building A and (11 p.m.) at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Hotel as guests of Ramon (RJ) Jacinto and his band; and Thursday at the Savannah Moon in Libis where an open competition will also be held. The audience will likewise be taught the basic steps of Chachacha, rumba, jive, waltz and Latin and standard dances. Dancesport patron Nanette Mendoza is the project director of the weeklong activities. For details, call Ana Faye at 635-0116 or Ruby at 752-0435 to 36.

Organized under the joint auspices of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and DSCP president Becky Garcia, the Asia Pacific championships will be sponsored by the PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee, PCSO, Pagcor, Philippine Air Lines, Edsa Shangri-La, Dance Exchange, Pagoda Philippines, Carlines Transportation and ABC 5.

AGELESS WONDER

Jordan proves critics wrong



Washington Wizards guard Michael Jordan (right) grabs a rebound against Boston Celtics forward Vin Baker (left) at the MCI Center in Washington, DC. Jordan scored 21 points as the Wizards won, 114-69. AFP

WASHINGTON—He drove around defenders with ease and did a little high-step when he made his jump shots. He scored a point for every minute he played.

Michael Jordan may be 39, but who could tell on this night? His game had all the compelling elements of years past—flow, rhythm, aggression, confidence.

"That felt good," he said.

The performance during the Washington Wizards' 114-69 victory over the Boston Celtics on Thursday came a night after Jordan missed two free throws and a breakaway dunk in the fourth quarter of a defeat in Toronto.

In one of the worst games of his 15-year career, Jordan labored on the court, looking less like the greatest basketball player ever and more like an old man who should be doing something else.

The 24-hour turn of events reinforced a Michael Jordan axiom: Never underestimate his determination to prove his critics wrong.

"I'm trying to stay ahead of all the criticism. That's the driving force for me," Jordan said on the eve of the season opener against the Toronto Raptors. "It's not that I can't do it; it's a matter of doing it at this age."

But at the Air Canada Centre, Jordan seemed as if he were trying simply to hang on for one more year. The rest of the team that Jordan assembled over the summer looked almost as bad in the 74-68 loss.

Sports talk shows nationwide spent much of Thursday comparing Jordan to stars like Willie Mays, who became a sad embarrassment by playing well past his prime.

They spoke too soon about No. 23.

Jordan scored 21 points in 21 minutes against the Celtics, who endured the worst regular-season loss in their storied history.

He showed no ill effects from the knee problems that bothered him all of last season. His four-point sequence at the end of the first half — two free throws, stolen inbounds pass, 21-foot jumper, celebratory cancan kick — lifted the arena as only Jordan can. AP

COMPLETE RESULTS

Detroit 109, Memphis 86; New Jersey 102, Indiana 91; Chicago 84, New Orleans 79; Minnesota 111, Orlando 105; San Antonio 91, Toronto 72; Philadelphia 98, New York 86; Phoenix 78, Cleveland 74; Houston 83, Denver 74; LA 106, Clippers 93, Seattle 106, Golden State 93 AFP

Agassi loses temper, match

PARIS—Andre Agassi lost his temper and his quarterfinal match at the Paris Masters on Friday, exiting the tournament after a 6-4, 6-4 defeat to Spain's Carlos Moya.

Agassi, seeded second, was angered by several line calls and told French umpire Cedric Mourier he did a "pathetic job" of umpiring the match.

"I hope I always speak my mind," Agassi said of the exchange with Mourier after his loss. They nevertheless shook hands.

Agassi can still overtake Lleyton Hewitt for the world No. 1 spot if he performs well at the season-ending Masters Cup in Shanghai, China, next month.

Top seed Hewitt secured his semifinal spot in Paris by beating Switzerland's Roger Federer 6-4, 6-4. He next plays rising Thai star Paradorn Srichaphan, who upset Andy Roddick 7-6 (3), 7-6 (3). AP

Founder's Cup golf at Orchard

THE NEWLY-RENOVATED Palmer course of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite, will be formally opened for play as the venue for the sixth Founder's Cup, the club's annual member-guest invitational on Nov. 23-24.

The Palmer course was recently re-greened to the TifEagle breed with major re-shaping of some greens.

Luis O. Villa-Abrille, chair of the 2002 Founder's Cup organizing committee, announced that registration for the event has been closed as early as two weeks ago.

Villa-Abrille said major sponsors include Nissan Commonwealth, TaylorMade-adidas and Cebu Pacific Air. Minor sponsors are Exotic Gardens, The Turf Co., Clark Parnham Mfg., Globe Telecoms, Aero Plus Multi-Services and Emeritus Security and Maintenance System.

Nissan Commonwealth is providing the prize for a hole-in-one on all par-3s of both courses except for Palmer's No. 12, which is sponsored by CICI General Insurance.

Brand new cars and appliances are the major prizes during the raffle.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1992, Lizette Garcia tallied 2348 pinfalls to capture the graded masters title in the 3rd SJBA Invitational Open championship at Greenlanes.

Golden Ballet banners cast

PHILIPPINE Racing Club, Inc. (PRCI) rolls down the red carpet for the country's top racing fillies and mares as they dispute top divisional honors in the Philracom-sponsored Sampaguita Distaff Championship, main event in today's card at the Santa Ana Park.

Led by this year's Triple Crown headliners--Golden Ballet, Halo Effect and Magical Mark, the P1-Million championship race is virtual showcase of the country's top campaigners in the 3-year-old and up filly division battling over a distance of 1,800-meters.

Multiple stakes winner Golden Ballet, coming off back-to-back defeats in her most recent start, will attempt to recover her winning form as she sets out as early favorite in the featured track encounter. Having already won three major stakes events this year, the 3-year-old bay filly will be partnered anew by currently suspended jockey Jonathan Hernandez, the filly's officially declared rider who received a stakes race dispensation.

Expected to put up a strong challenge for the premier spot is vastly-improved What A Spell, runner-up to Golden Ballet in the September 18 "Lakambini" Stakes and an impressive winner in her last start.

Alta Vista hosts Sta. Lucia tilt

FROM Mindanao, it will be Visayas' turn to host the 2002 Sta. Lucia Golf tour this week at the Alta Vista in Pardo, Cebu.

The Alta Vistans are expected to put up a mighty stand against the Rancho Palos Verdes delegation.

The other teams involved in the series for the Sta. Lucia family of golf clubs including defending overall champion Eagle Ridge, The Orchard and Royale Tagaytay will fly to Cebu in time for the Nov. 7 practice rounds. The tournament days are on Nov. 8-9.

Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, co-chair of the executive committee running the Tour, said that while Alta Vista is tipped to figure well at home, the rest of the entries are out to put themselves in a position for the final leg assault in Metro Manila.

Course familiarity will be on the Alta Vistans' side as they will be fielding the full force of their huge delegation bannered by such noted low handicappers as Montito Garcia, Carl Almario, Dennis Canoy and Edito Tirol plus members of the Aznar golfing clan.

Backing the tour as major sponsors are Unirock Corp., Readycon and Taylor-Made-adidas. Minor sponsors are Gainers Marketing, Kubota, Omega, Kodak, Philippine Airlines, and Cebu Pacific while Yamaha and Callaway are the hole-in-one prize providers. Hyatt (Manila), Marco Polo (Davao) and Cebu Plaza are the official hotels.

Problems and solutions

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

READER Ed Banes said he has stopped going to the races because he wants "improvements" from both the MJC and PRC. His latest mail delves on the most common problems of local horse racing. Read on:

In my first letter, I expressed disappointment about the way racing is conducted by the two racing clubs, particularly at the MJC. In fairness to the officials and staff of MJC and PRC, and to give our racing public the luxury of enjoying the races there, may I suggest solutions to some problems besetting horseracing here:

• PROBLEM: It is common knowledge that the tracks on both clubs are built differently, and that the time clocked by horses are not the same. According to my source, every time a favorite horse wins handily at one track and terribly losses at the other, the Jockey, and, or the trainer, owner, always comes up with the lame excuse that there is no "reversal of form." They point the difference in time as the culprit.

• SOLUTION: (1) Officials of both clubs should give a full public disclosure on the time difference on both tracks on all racing distances up to the last tenth of a second. (2) Time should not be the only basis for suspension on "reversal of form."

• PROBLEM: Unless it is very, very obviously viewed even by the racing public that a jockey has pulled his mount, stewards and judges have a hard time catching a jockey whose horse is out to lose. One of the reasons for that is the fact that MJC stewards never bother to watch PRC races, and vice versa. All of these stewards have no previous school training in stewardship. Most base their decisions on their experience and not really on their expertise.

• SOLUTION: Train all stewards by sending them abroad, (such as Hong Kong) for schooling. Or, get a specialist from abroad to train them here including "on the job" training. The jockeys have already done it (I believe through the Jockeys Association), so why not the stewards? No wonder, the jockeys know what to do more than the stewards. After the training, make it mandatory for all stewards to watch all the races at the other clubs at least even on tape. "Experience is good, but KNOWLEDGE is power."

• PROBLEM: Late start.

• SOLUTION: This is what we call in Tagalog, "sisiw." (1) Parade the horses 5 or 7 minutes before post time. Upon arrival at the gate, immediately hurl the horses in order inside their stalls one after the other or by twos. (No more going around for the horses) but instead, make them stand on a steady and ready position. (2) Train the helpers too. (3) When a horse is acting up too long, scratch that horse. Do all these things on a regular basis. The officials, staff, and the betting public can go home early, or attend to their commitments on time.

(To be continued)

PAUL HARRIS BACKER

TaylorMade-adidas is backing the prestigious Paul Harris Golf Tournament, a project of the Rotary Club of Makati in its continued effort to raise funds for various community outreach programs. The proceeds of the tournament will go to Project Roselle, a center for the blind. Shown (from left) are Tom Pohang of the RCMA's finance committee; Roberto Roxas, Paul Harris chair; Ernest Paguia, business unit manager, TaylorMade-adidas Golf Company; April Gemora, marketing and sales assistant, TaylorMade-adidas Golf Company; and, Rosette Martin, coordinator for TaylorMade-adidas (standing).

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1--1. Chances Are 2. Above All 3. Zenie's Pride 4. Voltes May
Race 2--1. Golden Cat 2. Eye of the Day 3. Hallmark
Race 3--1. Flying Machine 2. Tower of Power 3. Salt Lake City/Free Entrance 4. Rolex 5. Peek A Boo
Race 4--1. College Gem 2. Dynasty 3. Brazen Truth
Race 5--1. Speed Day 2. Senor Perlor 3. Suterian Era 4. Bold Lucky 5. Living Legend
Race 6--1. Clarize 2. Shining Jo 3. Fortius 4. Court General 5. Final Verdict
Race 7--1. Queen Matawe 2. Taproot 3. Red Thunder 4. Kingair 5. Strong Element/Hydrogas
Race 8--1. Golden Ballet 2. Magical Mark 3. Dandansoy 4. Serena
Race 9--1. Santa Fe 2. Maximo 3. Shuttle's Rianne 4. Ocean Menary 5. Roman Dance
Race 10--1. Always Florence 2. Shower of Stars 3. Triregal 4. Bidang Bida 5. All for Glory
Race 11--1. Velocity 2. Family Task
Race 12--1. Lucky Strike 2. Hellosilvergirl 3. High Typhoon 4. Charmingly Chit 5. Crystal Horizon
Race 13--1. Golden Tale 2. Epic Energy 3. Lady Be Gold 4. Sir Lawrence
Race 14--1. Gemstone 2. District Three 3. Hacker 4. Dane Emily 5. Silver Rose 6. Royal Lantana

Fistorama: Jaime versus Simbajon

FISTORAMA today features flyweights Carlo Jaime from Cebu and nine-year veteran Flash Simbajon from Leyte in eight rounds. The popular weekly boxing show is produced by Joe Cantada Sports and covered by top sportscaster Ed Picson and boxing authority, Quinito Henson.

Fistorama, now on its second season, is aired every Sunday noon on RPN 9.

TV COVEROR TACKLED FIRST

Issue of commissioner in back burner

By Al S. Mendoza
Sports Editor

THE SEARCH for the next PBA commissioner will be in the back burner for several more weeks in lieu of the league's concentration to select the next coveror of Asia's first play-for-pay loop.

"The board is presently deep in thought over who to pick as the next TV coveror of the PBA games for 2003 and beyond," said a PBA source who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The post of PBA commissioner has suddenly become a non-agenda."

Butch Alejo, the PBA chair, has said in no uncertain terms that the league would first deal with the TV aspect of the loop before finally tackling the issue of commissionership.

ALEJO

Alejo said last week that Commissioner Jun Bernardino's successor would be named "end of November at the earliest."

Bernardino, 55, is due to retire in December due to health reasons.

Bernardino's present deputy, Sonny Barrios, was at the helm for six months last year when Bernardino was recuperating from a mild stroke he suffered in April 2002.

Although Bernardino had strongly endorsed the 54-year-old Barrios as his successor–a move that was replicated by past commissioners like Rudy Salud and Rey Marquez–the board came up with a stunning decision to subject the next commissioner to a "screening process."

That was a break from tradition as the decision would now allow virtual outsiders to contest the post.

Thus, aside from Barrios, the other candidates include, among others, Chito Narvasa, Noni Eala, Elmer Yanga and Rey Gamboa.

Of the hopefuls, only Narvasa, who used to coach Shell, has submitted his resume to the board.

A special PBA board meeting is in the offing, but it is for the purpose of tackling the TV coverage rights being hotly contested by the group of Bobong Velez, Joey Concepcion, Bobby Barreiro and Choy Cojuangco on the one side against a conglomerate of TV networks that include NBN and IBC-13.

Viva Enterprises, the present coveror, has been reported out of the running because, according to the source, "Viva could not even pay its debts to the league and the banks are still checking on Viva's receivables."

The source said the board wants the "coveror thing done away soon so that the issue of commissionership will be tabled next."

Early in September, the board announced Oct. 31 or earlier as the date for the naming of Bernardino's successor, citing the Asian Games as the main reason for the delay.

The Asiad ended on Oct. 14.

The next regular PBA meeting is on the last Monday of the month–Nov. 25.

"Hopefully by that time, we will finally have a new commissioner," said the source.

PATRIMONIO: A leader again.

Purefoods stakes unblemished mark

GAMES TODAY *(Araneta Coliseum)*
3:45 p.m.–Purefoods vs Coca-Cola
5:45 p.m.–San Miguel vs Alaska

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS stakes its unblemished slate against Coca-Cola even as Alaska and San Miguel Beer attempt to recover from ego-deflating setbacks today at the resumption of the Selecta-PBA All Filipino Cup at the Big Dome.

Off to a roaring start, the TJ Hotdogs trampled on the Barangay Ginebra Kings and the FedEx Express, a habit they don't intend to break at the 3:45 p.m. encounter opposite the Tigers.

The Hotdogs, champions in the season-opener Governor's Cup, are sharing an untainted 2-0 record with Commissioner's Cup titlist Batang Red Bull.

Four-time league MVP Alvin Patrimonio and Ronnie Magsanoc are functioning as the team's ever-reliable leaders, sending sparks of encouragement to Rey Evangelista, Boyet Fernandez, Andy Seigle, Roger Yap, Richard Yee and Kerby Raymundo.

The Tigers, who split their first two outings, are bunched together with four other teams in the middle of the standings.

Coach Chot Reyes and his battle-tested crew led by Poch Juinio, Johnny Abarrientos, Jeffrey Cariaso and Rudy Hatfield are coming off from a win too scary enough for the Hotdogs not to take things lightly.

A merciless beating inflicted on the Shell Turbo Chargers, 80-52, last week shoved the Tigers into the win-column together with San Miguel Beer, Sta. Lucia Realty, Talk N Text and Alaska.

The Aces and the Beermen will blast themselves out of a loss after winning their respective opening games as they part ways in the other featured match at 5:45 p.m.

Since the last conference of the season calls for a single-round robin format with the top two teams gaining automatic slots in the semifinals, every setback will be detrimental to the losing squad.

Decena, Olympian, dies

By Dennis U. Eroa

LONDON Olympian Eduardo "Eddie" Decena died yesterday at the Makati Medical Center due to prostrate cancer. He was 76.

"Eddie was called Mr. LongShot," said former Olympic chief Maj. Julian Malonzo.

His body lies at the St. Alfonso Ligouri Chapel in Magallanes Village. Burial will be on Tuesday at the North Cemetery after the 8 a.m. Mass.

A La Salle standout, Decena earned that monicker when he sank a long shot from the backcourt, forcing an overtime during the 1947 finals against favored Mapua bannered by Eustaquio "Tancing" Tanquintic.

La Salle, skippered by Tito Eduque and coached by Chito Calvo, evetually won the title before a jampacked crowd at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Decena was voted MVP.

Hall of Famer Carlos Badion and Martin Urra Sr. also died this year.

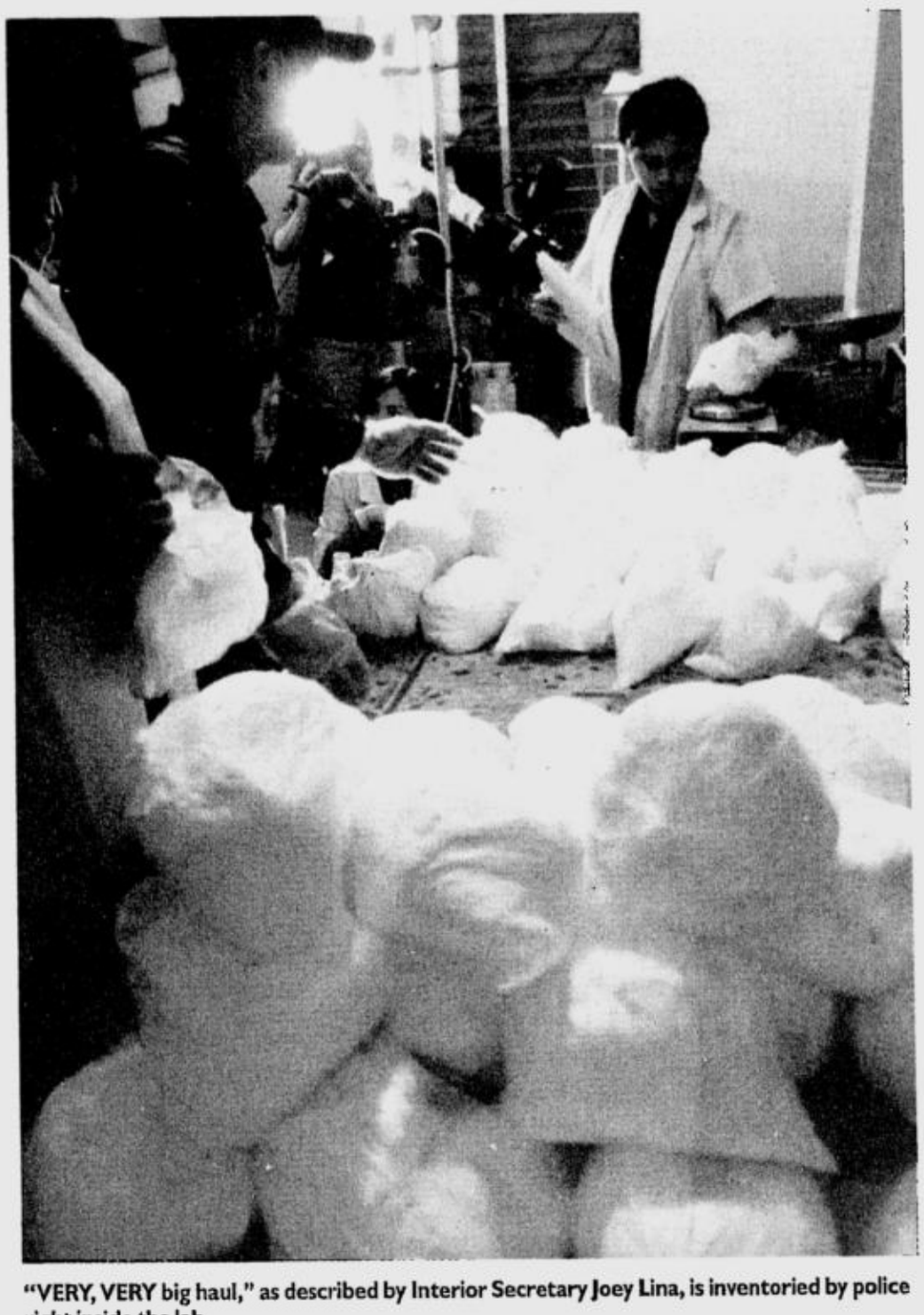
Among Decena's London teammates were brothers Fely and Gaby Fajardo, Lauro Mumar, Francisco Vestil, Andres de la Cruz, Antonio Marquez, Ed Fulgencio and Ramoncito Campos Jr.

A widower, Decena left behind his children Luis, Maritess Jose, Tiny, Chit Rosario and Tryll Macalintal. His wife was Nena Aragon.

Decena's playing career was abruptly cut when he hurt his knee in a collision with American Olympian Don Barksdale during an exhibition game after the London Olympics.

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino



"VERY, VERY big haul," as described by Interior Secretary Joey Lina, is inventoried by police right inside the lab.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Drug suspect 'planned to expand shabu ring'

By Leila Salaverria and Alcuin Papa

THE CHINESE whom police tagged as the operator of a huge shabu laboratory in Parañaque City was planning to set up another drug lab to increase his shabu output, according to Southern Police District director Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez.

He said the raiding team has found proof that Bin Xu Zi, 30, was planning to expand his operations.

"There were a lot of raw materials confiscated," Gutierrez said, referring to what members of the raiding team found in the suspected drug laboratory on Hemlock Street, Executive Heights Subdivision, Barangay Sun Valley.

"There (were boxes) of beakers that were still unpacked," Gutierrez said. "This means operations would be expanded."

He also said that according to information he gathered from Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina, the laboratory was geared for "nationwide distribution."

"This is a very, very big haul," Gutierrez quoted Lina as saying. "Definitely, its distribution is nationwide."

Gutierrez said Bin is the top honcho in the drug operations.

"He's a principal," Gutierrez said in a phone interview yesterday. "He's on top of operations."

But the district director declined to elaborate on how police came to this conclusion, so as not to jeopardize the investigation.

Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, yesterday ordered a manhunt for five other suspected operators of the laboratory.

During interrogation, Bin revealed to police that at least five other men helped him operate the shabu laboratory.

The NCRPO chief said close coordination between citizens and the police led to the arrest of Bin alias Crispin Xu, of Barangay Tambo, Parañaque City.

SUSPECT BIN

Bin was arrested at 4 a.m. on Friday for illegal drug possession, shortly after he left the house on Hemlock Street.

That same day at 6 p.m., police swooped down on the house after securing a search warrant from Parañaque City Regional Trial Court Judge Helen Ricafort of Branch 260.

Velasco said the Parañaque police are set to question a Teddy Monasterio, said to be the owner of the house.

But Gutierrez said the house could belong to another person, adding that the name Teddy Monasterio came up because it was found on several items in the house.

Gutierrez said his men are checking bank records to determine who really owns the house.

He said nearby residents believe that a Chinese couple owns the house.

Members of the Parañaque police drug enforcement unit seized from the laboratory 68 kilos of ephedrine, a primary ingredient of shabu, and 40 grams of shabu.

They also found five fully setup shabu making equipment, 20 boxes of bottles of thionyl chloride which is another key ingredient in the manufacture of shabu, a diagram detailing the drug-making process in Chinese, and two sacks of what police believe is frozen shabu.

They also found finished products as well as residual materials.

Gutierrez said the laboratory workers could not throw away all the residue at once because they would be giving themselves away to the police.

He said disposing of the waste had to be done at intervals.

Gutierrez also said the shabu laboratory's potential output might be the largest in the country.

An official of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on Friday claimed that the laboratory could manufacture P2 billion worth of shabu per day.

The official said the laboratory was bigger than the ones found in San Juan, Quezon City and Pasig City.

Last year, a suspected drug mill in Lipa City, Batangas yielded about 1,000 kilos of shabu.

Last Jan. 18, police took out a laboratory in San Juan and seized unrefined shabu worth about P100 million.

Last July 19, police raided another laboratory in Varsity Hills, Loyola Heights, Quezon City and confiscated shabu worth about P100 million.

Eye doctor to stars

By Leah Salterio

ARROYO

MANY PEOPLE still dread undergoing eye surgery, convinced that it is still an extensive, tedious and painful process, and that the eyes still take a long time to heal.

Laser technology, however, has made eye surgery painless, bloodless and far, far safer than before. And the whole process takes only 10 minutes.

"No sutures, no eye patch," points out Dr. Jack G. Arroyo. "The next day, you see well. You can stop wearing glasses."

Arroyo is the founder and president of the American Eye Center, which he says has operated on more than 20,000 eyes using laser surgery. Located at the Shangri-la Plaza mall, the center has been cited in international eye care for introducing technical innovations.

It is also said to be among the top five eye centers in Asia, and No. 7 in the world, in terms of the volume of eye surgeries performed.

TALES OF THE CITY

EYE / A29

■ Nov. 11 trial run for 'Drop and Ride' /A28

■ Suspected addict robs hospital patient /A28

■ Robbed, killed /A28

■ 'Trabaho para sa Mamamayan' /A29

■ Tanod shot dead /A28

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THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE

In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award.

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--- Nov Pierce, BBC

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--- Paul Clinton, CNN

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8 RED DRAGON
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7 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

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8 POSSESSION

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6 SINGSING NI LOLA

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3 STA. CLAUSE 2
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7 RED DRAGON
8 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

Novaliches 935-3229 - 30

1 9 GHOST SHIP
2 RED DRAGON
3 SANTA CLAUSE
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

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1 GHOST SHIP
2 SANTA CLAUSE
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?

Bacolod 441-0453 / 0459

1 MR. DEEDS
2 BLOODWORKS
3 BESTMAN
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Iloilo 336-8077 - 78

1 MR. DEEDS
2 POSSESSION
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 THE TOUCH
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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2 RED DRAGON
3 TUXEDO
4 PLUTO NASH
5 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
7 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
8 NINE MORNING
9 JEANIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
10 SINGSING NI LOLA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas (Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1
2
3
4
5
6
Golden Pearl THX

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2 BED TIME STORY
3 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
6 BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER

www.clickthecity.com.ph star (Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

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2 SOON TO OPEN

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OCT. 30, E HALLOWEEN PARTY TIME 9:30 PM
OCT. 31, HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION 9:30 PM
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Center Plaza Cinema (Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 TUXEDO
2 NINE MORNING

Sunshine (FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
2 HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 BED TIME STORY

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Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588

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5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
7 RED DRAGON
8 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
9 HALLOWEEN RESURRETION

Gotesco Caloocan tel 362.3508

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Gotesco Grand Central (Caloocan) tel 365.7928

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2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 NINE MORNING
6 RED DRAGON
HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
8 MUNTING TINIG
9 BED TIME STORY

Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0082

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2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 RED DRAGON

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2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BED TIME STORY
4 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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Sampaguita (Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 SINGSING NI LOLA

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2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
4 SINGSING NI LOLA
5 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

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1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

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2 SINGSING NI LOLA

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6 NINE MORNING
7 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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2 SINGSING NI LOLA

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Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 BED TIME STORY
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 SINGSING NI LOLA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 NINE MORNING
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
3 NINE MORNING
4 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 NINE MORNIN .
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 RESERVE

Cinema 2000 MetroTown (Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
4 BLOOD WORK

Magic Star Cinema (Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG

Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 MUNTING TINIG
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 BEDTIME STORY
HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BEDTIME STORY
4 BLOOD WORK
5 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG

Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

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2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 BEDTIME STORY

Olivarez Los Banos tel (049) 249.2558

1 SINGSING NI LOLA
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 POSSESSION
2 TUXEDO
3 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
4 SINGSING NI LOLA

Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
2 RESERVE

Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 MASIKIP MAINIT
2 JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KALANG
3 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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3 MASIKIP MAINIT
4 PLUTO NASH

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PRESLEY

Buy Elvis CD, win trip to Graceland

BMG Records Pilipinas and Odyssey Records, the leading record chain, offer a chance for Elvis fans to experience Elvis Presley's magnificent Graceland estate in Memphis, Tennessee.

"The Road to Graceland" raffle promo is now ongoing at all Odyssey Records outlets in Metro Manila and Region IV. For every album purchase of the grandest greatest hits album, "Elvis 30 No. 1 Hits" buyers are entitled to a raffle entry.

Deadline for dropping of entries is Nov. 24. A lucky winner shall be sent on an all-expense-paid trip to Graceland in January 2003, in time for celebration of Elvis Presley's birth anniversary.

Some of the fascinating Graceland attractions that the winner will enjoy include a grand tour of the Elvis mansion which displays personal artifacts and mementos of the late artist, a visit to the Elvis Auto Museum and a look into his custom jet planes.

"Elvis 30 No. 1 Hits" gathers 30 of The King's number one songs which includes such favorites as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Jailhouse Rock," "Love Me Tender," "Hound Dog" among others.

Also included as a bonus track is the worldwide smash hit, "A Little Less Conversation Remix."

The album landed the number one spot in sales charts in different territories around the world.

"The Road To Graceland" is also currently running on Myx, the leading music channel.

For the latest Elvis news and updates, visit www.elvisnumberones.com and www.elvis.com.

Ara Mina ...

From page A32

a visual feast on the horror scenes.

Tried and tested formula is how industry insiders call the success of Regal Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** in coming up with mega-productions. That means giving everything that is needed in a production which includes getting a good cast, director and scriptwriter, with an all-out financial support by the producer.

Congratulations to director **Uro Q. de la Cruz** and the formidable cast of "Singsing ni Lola," led by veteran actress **Gloria Romero**, with **Joel Torre**, **Gina Alajar**, **Allan K**, **Aiza Seguerra**, **Maxene Magalona** and **TJ Cruz** among others.

OPENS NOVEMBER 6 !
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KRISTA RANILLO
ARA MINA WENDELL RAMOS
TWO TIMER
FILM BY MEL CHIONGLO DGPI

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sexfiles
DIRECTED BY JOVEN M. TAN
A GOOD HARVEST PRESENTATION

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ASSUNTA DE ROSSI
BAHID
A FILM BY JOEL LAMANGAN DGPI
REGAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. PRESENTATION

Nov. 11 trial run for 'Drop and Ride'

By Leila B. Salaverria

A NOV. 11 trial date has been set for the oft-postponed "Drop and Ride" project of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

And a concession to parents who fear for their children's safety, the buses in the project will be accompanied by MMDA traffic enforcers on motorcycles, according to Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

"We promised to provide MMDA escorts to the buses during the project's initial run of about two weeks," said Vergel de Dios.

The traffic director said one escort would be provided for each bus. The escorts would also help ensure that the buses would be arriving in school on time, he added.

"Another concern raised by the parents is that the children might arrive late for school," he said in a phone interview. "The escorts would probably solve this problem."

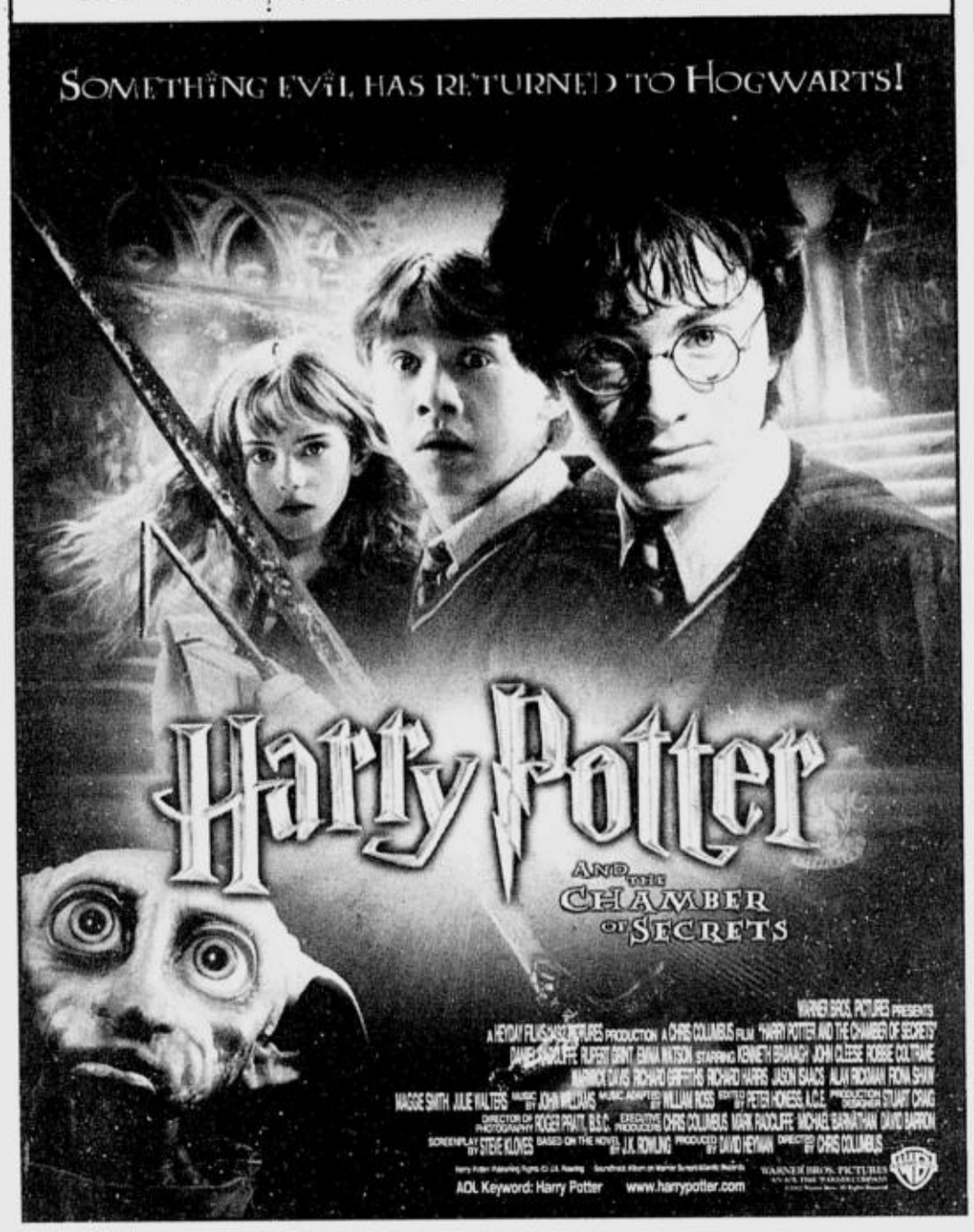
Under the project, buses would pick up students at designated areas and bring them directly to school. This way, the vehicles that bring children to school everyday would be lessened.

Four pick-up and drop-off points have been selected so far. They are the Select station on C-5 Road, the Marikina City Hall, the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao and S&R supermarket in Roosevelt, Quezon City.

Vergel de Dios said the project would be made available first to students from the Ateneo de Manila University and, if successful, to students of other schools.

Parents have raised fears that their children's safety might be compromised when they ride in the buses. But MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando had pointed out that there is safety in numbers, and that only students and possibly their guardians would be allowed to board the buses.

OPENS NOVEMBER 13!



AN EYE FOR CRIME The National Capital Region Police Office chief, Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco, flanked by Philippine National Police chief of the directorate staff Virtus Gil (left) and PNP Foundation Chair Ricky Crisostomo, leads the launch of the Magic Eye Txt Patrol, in coordination with Smart. The program allows civilians to report crimes by text messages to police through 2910.

Drug suspect robs hospital patient

POLICE arrested a suspected drug addict who allegedly robbed a patient and his guests in a private hospital in Caloocan City on Friday.

Police said Reynaldo John Alberto, 21, of Pandayan, Mecauayan, Bulacan, was responsible for a string of robberies at the Manila Central University Hospital on Edsa, near the Bonifacio Monument Circle.

Reports showed that at about 2:45 p.m. Friday, Alberto pretended to be a relative of a patient and proceeded to the room of Efraim Allan Enovero. Once inside, Alberto allegedly took two cell phones and other valuables worth P13,000 belonging to the patient and Ann Enovero and Daisy Cardinal, who were taking care of the patient, police said.

The three were not aware that Alberto was inside the room, and only saw him when he left the room with the loot, police said.

When they realized what was happening, Enovero and Cardinal sought the help of security guards, who chased Alberto and caught him at the hospital gate.

The two cell phones were also recovered from Alberto.

Tina Santos

Tanod shot dead

A BARANGAY *tanod* was shot dead Friday night in Quezon City.

Police have yet to identify the killer of Nemesio Lumipas, 47, a village watchman of Barangay San Roque, Quezon City.

According to the police report, the shooting of Lumipas happened at about 11:30 p.m. in an alley near the dumpsite of San Roque, Barangay Pag-asa.

Police said Lumipas was walking when the unidentified man appeared and shot him at close range in the right side of the face.

Alcuin Papa

Robbed, killed

AN UNIDENTIFIED man, believed to be a holdup victim, was found dead from stab wounds near the service of Pier 4 at the North Harbor in Tondo, Manila yesterday morning.

Homicide detective SPO1 Benito Cabatbat described the victim as 35 to 40 years old, about 5 feet tall, brown-complexioned, balding with curly hair and mustache, and wearing a gray and blue striped shirt and jeans.

Jerome Aning

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'Trabaho para sa Mamamayan'

MORE THAN 2, 000 Las Piñas residents found jobs from July to September 2002 with the help of the "Trabaho para sa Mamamayan" program of Las Piñas City Mayor Vergel "Nene" Aguilar.

Leo Espino, head of the City Public Employment Service or Peso, was quoted as saying that from January, 5, 400 residents were employed in various business establishments in the city and in nearby towns and cities.

Aguilar said those who did not qualify for jobs were encouraged to enroll in free vocational or technical courses at the Las Piñas Manpower Training Center.

Aguilar said in a statement that among the establishments that participated in the city's job program are SM Group of Companies, Jollibee, Saniware Manufacturing Corp., Worksavers Personnel Services, Aedan Associates Inc., Manpower Assistance Integrated Network Inc., Promo Results Plus Inc., People 4 People and Pro Temps.

UP engineers homecoming

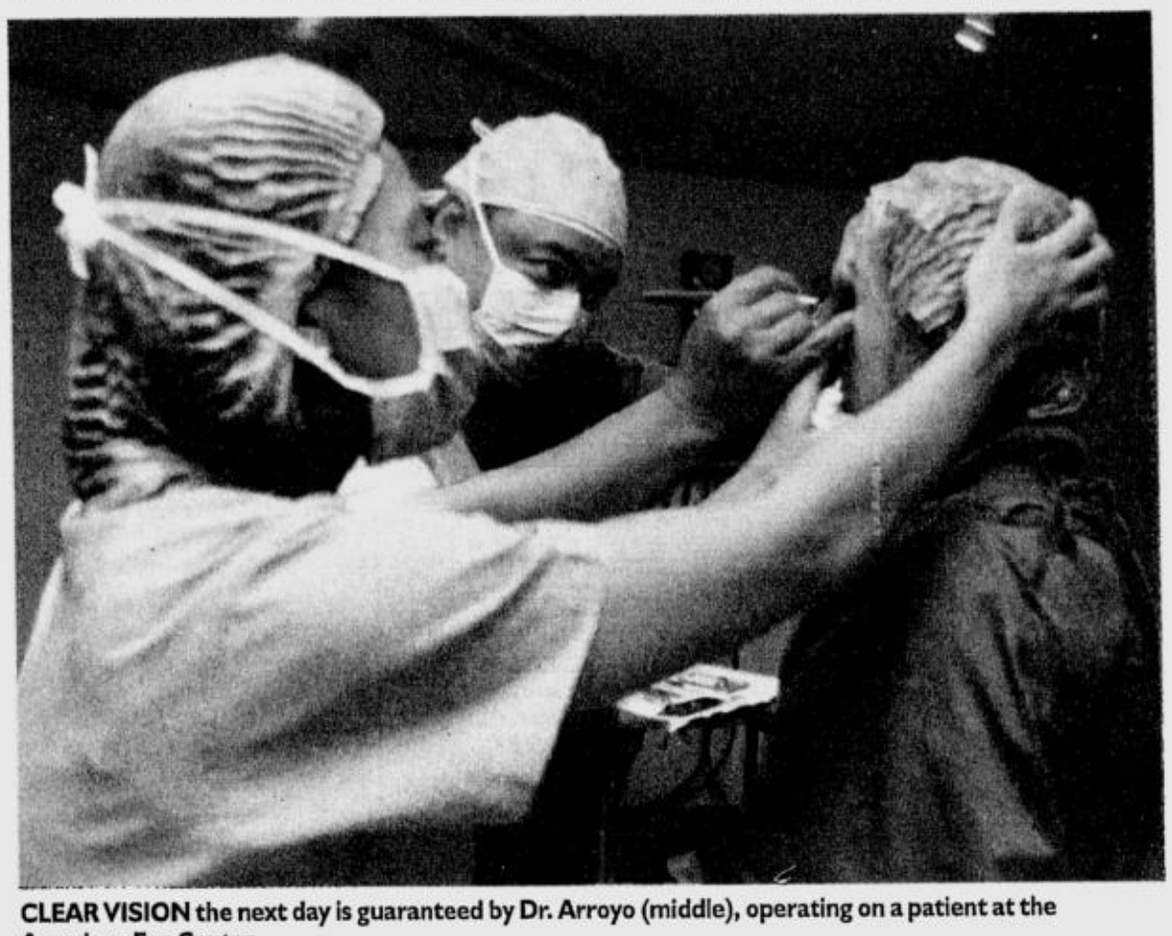
THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Engineers (UPAE) will hold its annual homecoming and reunion on Saturday, Nov. 9, 2002, starting at 4:30 p.m., at the UP Bahay ng Alumni in UP Diliman, Quezon City.

The special classes in the reunion are Class '42 (diamond jubilarians), Class '52 (golden jubilarians), Class '62 (ruby jubilarians) and Class '77 (silver jubilarians). Awards will be presented to outstanding alumni.

For more details, contact Nanette Pelaez at 926-1516, fax 922-4714; Elvie Visaya at 434-3632, fax 926-5487; or e-mail Ronilo Salustiano at ronilo.salustiano"up.edu.ph

Eye doctor to stars

From page A25



CLEAR VISION the next day is guaranteed by Dr. Arroyo (middle), operating on a patient at the American Eye Center.

JOHNNY VILLENA

Celebrities

To date, the center's prominent patients include the likes of former President Fidel V. Ramos, show biz stars Zsa Zsa Padilla, Pops Fernandez and Ai-Ai de las Alas, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Sen. Joker Arroyo and Manila Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) Chair Bayani Fernando.

"Even foreigners come to us for treatment because we have the best technology and we're a very experienced eye center," Arroyo said.

To calm fears of recurring poor eyesight problems, Arroyo points out that the center's re-operation rate for the 20,000 eyes is just four percent. "That's just four eyes out of every hundred, so it's not very high," he says.

The center uses the Lasik (laser-in-situ keratomileusis) method in refractive surgery, in which Arroyo specializes.

"One aspect of this technology is that this is the first time in ophthalmology and eye surgery that we are intervening surgically with normal eyes," Arroyo says. "If you wear glasses or contact lenses and we intervene surgically, you should be able to see with the same clarity as when you were still wearing glasses or lenses. Before, we did surgery on people with cataract and other eye disorders. We are now intervening with eyes which are relatively normal."

Frequency

He says that despite laser being an expensive technology, the American Eye Center has kept its price at P50,000 for a pair of eyes, or P25,000 per eye.

"The market leaders are charging much more," he says. "But patients compare and they call us."

Arroyo says laser is expensive because of its tracking technology based on an infrared radar, the foremost feature of the machine used in the eye surgery.

"The radar tracks the eye at a frequency of 4,000 times per second," he explains. "Using a very small beam of only 0.8 millimeters in diameter, the laser scans the cornea with a diameter of 9 mm.

"Other laser brands use video cameras which capture the picture of the eye and moves as the eye moves. But the tracking rate of the most advanced video camera is only 120 times per second, so there's a big discrepancy. That can put the laser beam in the wrong position because the eye is not being tracked properly.

"If you are a businessman, you will buy the cheapest laser machine (for an eye clinic) for a faster ROI (return of investment). The machine we bought is the most expensive in the market and it has the best technology and can deliver the best results. We didn't mind spending more in bringing the best technology here."

Sub-specialists

The center has nine doctors, with each doctor sub-specializing in one field of ophthalmology. Arroyo is the refractive surgeon. Another does cataract surgery. There are sub-specialists in squints, external diseases of the eyes, retina and diabetes of the eyes.

"Ideally, one doctor cannot do all surgeries well," Arroyo says. "What we do is we get a sub-specialist, like one for glaucoma, so we can give the best quality care. If you go to the clinic of a general ophthalmologist, he can't do everything.

"Again, the prices are very competitive. Refractive surgery has the biggest number of patients."

The American Eye Center used to be inside the Medical City Hospital in Mandaluyong. "But since we were inside the hospital, we were restricted to do only refractive surgery because we would be competing with the hospital itself if we did other kinds," Arroyo says. "So we moved out to the Shangri-La mall.

"Where to move was a big dilemma because people might have the notion that if we're in a mall, we're not a serious center and we can't deliver quality care.

"But our location on the fifth level of Edsa Shangri-La mall is quiet. The biggest come-on is the clinic's direct access to MRT. People can come to our clinic without having to drive."

The American Eye Center was established as a "pure partnership," according to Arroyo.

"There are four senior partners, so the income is split into four," he said. "Even if you don't have patients, you get your share of the revenue. My other partners had been my classmates since prep school at Ateneo and pre-med and medicine proper at the University of the Philippines."

Arroyo put up the clinic in 1995, when the American manufacturers of the laser technology from New York were looking for a partner to set up a center in the Philippines.

"Since there were very few doctors in Manila doing laser surgery at that time, my name was mentioned to them so they looked me up," he recalls.

One of his patients, Geronimo Velasco, discussed the medical business venture with him and later decided to come in as a partner. In 1997, the center became a wholly owned Filipino corporation.

First in Asia

Other businessmen involved in the corporation, aside from Velasco, are Ramon Cojuangco Jr. and Ed Espiritu.

Arroyo notes laser technology is evolving towards wave-front treatment, which has been approved in the US four months ago.

"We're the first in Asia to have software upgrade and it will be here November or first week of December," he says.

"We are in a Third World country yet the equipment we have is First World. We've even begun to introduce innovations in certain surgical techniques and management of different eye diseases. We've been cited in world ophthalmology for devising a certain technique to treat high degrees of ametropia (or abnormal eye condition)."

Despite the high price, why should people have laser surgery, and why go to the American Eye Center?

"Laser surgery improves the quality of life and changes one's lifestyle," says Arroyo.

One of his patients, Lito Anzures, spokesperson for Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, attests to the convenience brought about by his recent laser eye treatment.

"On the beach, I can now see girls in bikinis," Anzures says with a sparkle in his eyes.

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'Himig Handog' album spawns radio favorites

THREE songs in the newly released "Himig Handog Love Songs" compilation album have become certified radio favorites even before the contest night on Nov. 10.

The top favorite is "Hindi na Bale," composed by Jimmy Antiporda, formerly of the Neocolours. The love ballad will be interpreted by Jessa Zaragoza.

Antiporda was also a finalist in last year's "Jam: Himig Handog sa Makabagong Kabataan" with his song "Someday."

Bituin Escalante sings "Kung Ako na Lang Sana," another radio favorite penned by Soc Villanueva.

Also a strong favorite is "Only I," jointly written by Brian Cua and Jason Icasiano, interpreted by Dianne de la Fuente.

The three songs are included in the "Himig Handog Love Songs" album, now available on CDs and cassettes from Star Records, Inc. The album features all 10 songs and songwriters that have made it to this year's finals.

Finals night is on Nov. 10, 9:30 p.m. at the ELJ Communications Center at ABS-CBN.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 11:40,2:00,4:20, 6:40,9:00	SANTA CLAUSE 2 GP 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	RED DRAGON R18 11:50,2:15,4:50, 7:25,10:00
GHOST SHIP R18 11:50,1:50,3:50, 5:50,7:50,9:50	PLUTO NASH P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA — 10:50 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/ 10:30 LFS/11:00 LMF/12:50 END
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daniel fernando, john apacible, simon ibarra and gladys reyes
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"The Transporter" has action. Buckets of action. This frantic new cross-cultural flick serves up a new formula for action movies: start with lots of action, then add more and better action, and then finish with nothing but action.

The movie is about Frank Martin (Statham), he has the nerves of harden steel and ruthless driving driving skills that make him a sought-after free agent in transporting illegal commerce. *Here are his rules:* (1) Never change the deal; (2) No names; and (3) Never look in the package. These self-imposed rules have served him well.

Frank's newest transport is no different from the ones he's done in the past. But when Frank stops along route, he notices his "package" is moving. Violating Rule Three, Frank looks inside the bag, finding its contents to be a woman.

Frank's devotion to his other rules - which make up his basic codeof survival - also quickly falls, and led him to a road leading to shocking secrets, deadly complications, and the last thing Frank ever expected to come to believe: that rules are made to be broken.
...he (Statham) could easily destroy the likes of Jean-Claude Van Damme and Steven Seagal or tough guys like Tom Cruise and Vin Diesel
-Danny Minton, KBTV, NBC
OPENS NOVEMBER 6

OPENS NOV. 6
Art Film GREENBELT 1
AYALA CINEMAS
PIÑERO
"Piñero" tells the story of the explosive life of a Latino icon, the poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, whose urban poetry is recognized as a pre-cursor to rap and hip-hop. After doing time in hard-core Sing-Sing for petty thefts and drug dealing, Piñero's prison experiences developed into the 1974 Tony-nominated play Short Eyes. The resulting notoriety and fame was too much for the Latino bad-boy genius who retreated to the darker corners of New York City.
Starring: Benjamin Bratt, Talisa Soto, Mandy Patinkin, Rosita Moreno, Jaime Sanchez; Directed by: Leon Ichaso
"Vibrant and compelling."
- Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES
MTRCB RATING: Restricted 18 (R)

NOKIA INQUIRER SKYFLAKES

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS / LAMAN
ODEON	GHOST SHIP
ODEON-2	BABAHA NG DUGO / KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
ROBEN	BOMBA QUEEN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MIB / INSOMNIA

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR-2	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
B	HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-2	GHOST SHIP

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(661-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SINGSING NI LOLA
Ali 2	JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
Ali 3	RED DRAGON
Ali 4	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Ali 5	BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
Ali 6	NINE MORNING
Ali 7	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

Farmers 1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
Farmers 2	SINGSING NI LOLA

ARANETA COLISEUM

NOV. 3, 10	PBA GAMES
NOV. 15	STUDIO 23 MYX PARTY
NOV. 16	HEALING THE FAMILY

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Why we have so few women directors on the local film scene

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

YESTERDAY, we asked the question: Why do so few women become directors on the local film scene? We checked with some of them, and got these responses:

Despite the fact that quite a number of our movie producers have been women, the industry has traditionally been dominated by male directors (some 60-plus in contrast to just five women filmmakers). Perhaps it's because filmmaking here is such a demanding job that requires long hours of work, and total focus on the part of the director, to the exclusion of much else.

Thus, women who want to direct *and* take care of their family have a difficult time of it. Unless they have a strong support system, they eventually give up.

Even when they stick it out, they are subjected to some opposition, and even discrimination. The traditional notion is that women are too "soft" to become rigorous cinematic managers or taskmasters.

Also, when a woman directs a generally male production staff and crew, this upends the old view that man is the boss, so some crewmen may resent it. They may let their resentment be known in subtle ways, like questioning the female director's mastery of the technical aspects of filmmaking, complaining that her shots are pretty instead of dynamic, etc.

Of course, since they need the job, they won't rock the boat too much—only enough for the woman director to sense that her work is constantly being evaluated by her peers, and found wanting.

This is especially true when the woman director doesn't limit herself to the "feminine" film types, like romance and melodrama. If a female director "dares" to do action-drama, suspense or raucous comedy, just watch those male or gay eyebrows rise!

It's gotten so that, when a woman director succeeds at her job, aspersions may be cast on her gender, implying that women filmmakers who get what they want could have lesbian tendencies.

All this is neither here nor there, of course, since macho directors have been known to very effectively meg romances or blithe comedies revolving around female protagonists. Conversely, a woman can come up with a tough, smart, energetic film without losing her femininity.

Besides, gender isn't important in the arts, talent is. So, be the director macho, femme, gay or lesbo, what is relevant to the audience is the quality of the film itself.

Despite all this, however, the fact remains that, for the reasons we've cited, and more, we need many more female directors than we have, because fully half of the local film audience is female and that huge sector's point of view needs to be much more fully understood and depicted on the movie screen.

This is not to say that this is the only thing that women directors should do, because they are filmmakers first, and women second. But women have been misrepresented or exploited on the screen much too often so the need is strong to rectify this unenlightened state of affairs.

This is made particularly crucial by the film medium's persuasiveness in providing the movie audience with role models for its own conduct. If women characters are depicted as weaklings and sex objects by exploitative male directors, that would perpetuate the myth that that's the way they should remain.

We trust, therefore, that movie producers will give breaks to more women directors. For their part, new female directing talents have to be made of sterner stuff, so that they don't fall by the wayside, as so many have done.

A final thought: in the United States, quite a number of women directors started out as actresses—**Barbra Streisand, Ida Lupino, Penny Marshall, Jodie Foster, Angelica Huston**, etc. In fact, some years ago, we heard about a special directing workshop that was put up in Hollywood exclusively for female stars who wanted to become directors. Could something similar be tried here?

Would the likes of **Vilma Santos, Sharon Cuneta, Maricel Soriano, Dina Bonnevie, Gina Alajar** and **Hilda Koronel** want to go into film directing? The fact that they're popular stars would make it easier for them to get good directing assignments, once they're good and ready.

Other prospective women directors can come from other film crafts, like **Joyce Bernal**, who started out as an editor. We have women screenwriters, cinematographers and production designers who could also make the transition to directing. Plus women who do outstanding short films or documentaries, and might want to graduate to directing full-length films.

Sharon's starrers on Viva Cinema

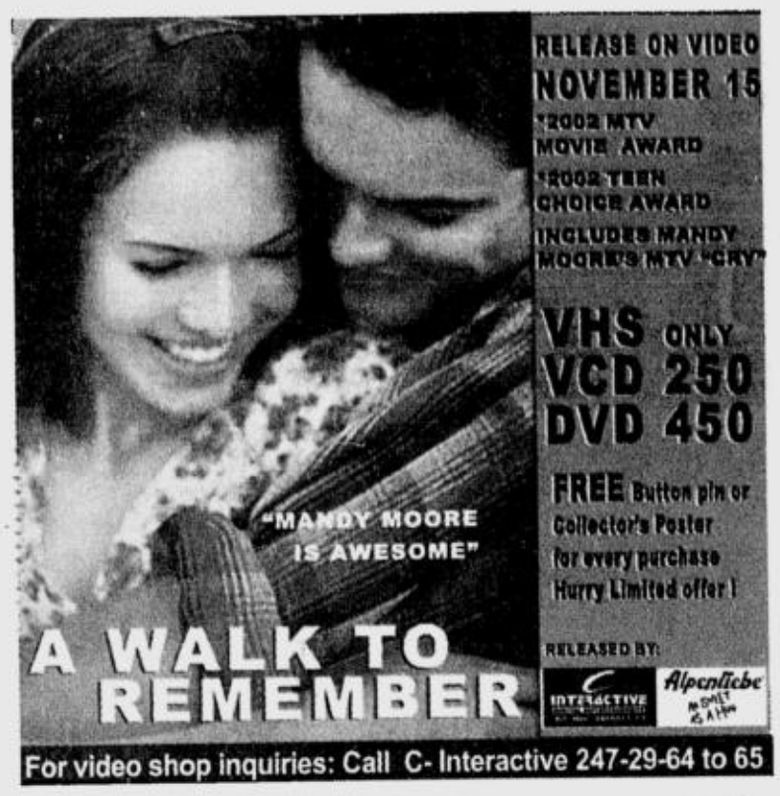
EVERY Saturday at 8 p.m. this month, **Sharon Cuneta**'s memorable screen teamups will be featured on Viva Cinema:

Nov. 9, "Kapantay Ay Langit" with **Richard Gomez**. A daughter plays Cupid in this film about a single mother who gets another chance at love. Nov. 16, "Pagdating Ng Panahon" with **Robin Padilla**. Sharon plays a conservative woman who turns aggressive to test Robin's love for her.

Nov. 23, "Kailan Sasabihing Mahal Kita?" with **Christopher de Leon**. And Nov. 30, "Kahit Konting Pagtingin" with **Fernando Poe, Jr.**

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino



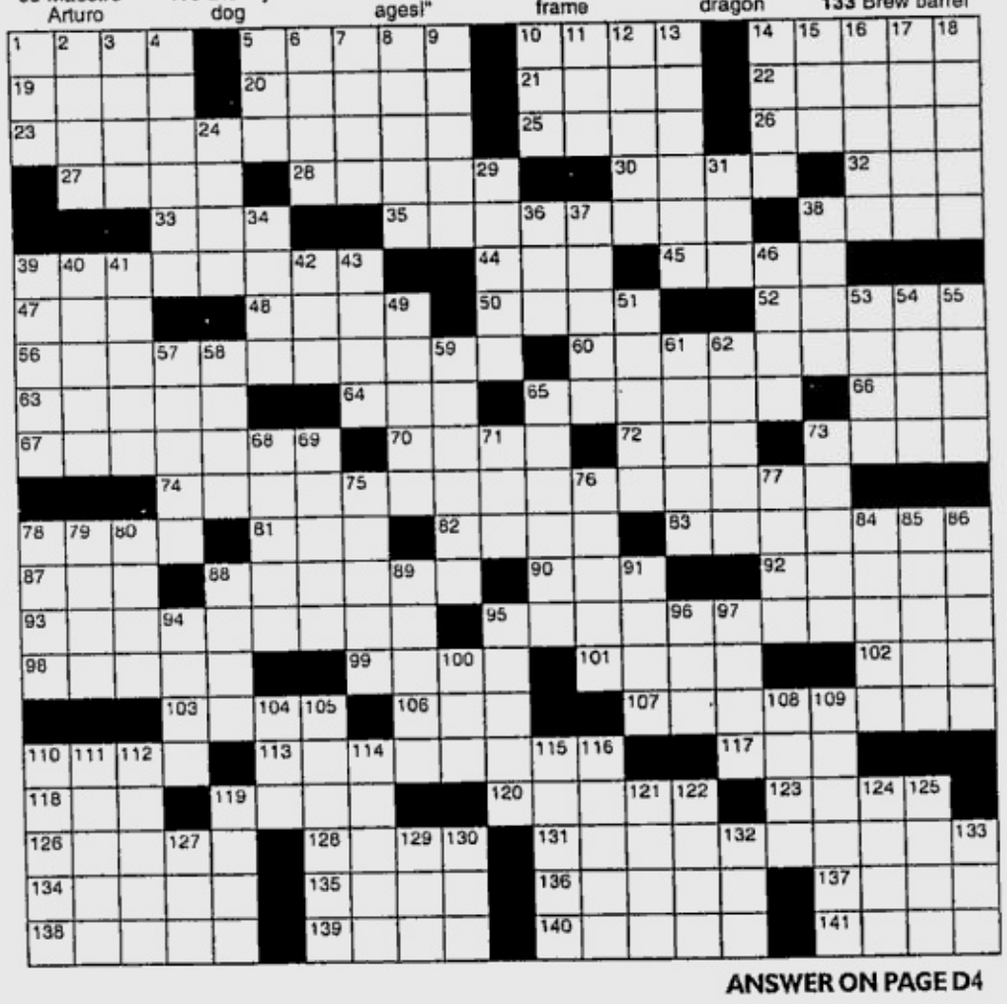
BACK TO SEXY. Ara Mina in her boldest role to date in Mel Chionglo's "Two-Timer."

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — **PERFECT**

ACROSS
1 Exercise target
5 Actuate
10 Boston —
14 Denzel Washington film
19 Kansas city
20 — Incognita
21 Comfort
22 "Middlemarch" author
23 Butchershop buy
25 Modern Mesopotamia
26 Numerical word form
27 Theater collection
28 Director Michael
30 Satyric trait
32 Vim
33 Bond rating
35 Neapolitan song
38 Work over?
39 Tarnish
44 PBS benefactor
45 Mrs. Nick Charles
47 ABA member
48 Shipshape
50 Standard
52 Court cry
56 Start of a Nash verse
60 Maestro Arturo
63 Opening remark?
64 To and —
65 Rang
66 Rapper Tone —
67 Rained and snowed
70 Kruger of "High Noon"
72 "— vous plaît"
73 To boot
74 Bach favorite
78 Hostage
81 New Deal agcy.
82 — May Oliver
83 Most enthusiastic
87 Diminutive suffix
88 Make minestrone
90 Say please
92 Actress Zellweger
93 Connecticut county
95 It's a guy thing
98 Perplexed
99 WWII site
101 Kenwood competitor
102 Glowing
103 No, to Nureyev
106 Asian soldier
107 Haphazard
110 Disney dog
113 George Peppard series
117 Korf or Sara
118 What a feller needs
119 Keeping
120 Give in to gravity
123 Walked
126 Diacritical mark
128 Author Ambler
131 Famed disc jockey
134 Irving's "The — New Hampshire"
135 Amneris' rival
136 Messy Madison
137 European country
138 High-tech missives
139 Expensive
140 Uses a trepan
141 TV's "Ding — School"

DOWN
1 Trim
2 Sampras strokes
3 Soap additive
4 Chicken little?
5 "— been ages!"
6 "Simple Simon — . . ."
7 Type of sch.
8 Thalia's sister
9 Albert and Victoria
10 Mile High Center architect
11 Boathouse item
12 Sacred song
13 Costume sparkler
14 Kid
15 Castilian cry
16 Hefty herbivore
17 Short messages
18 Stick 'em in your ear
24 Actor Morales
29 Singer Summer
31 — Canals
34 Composer Thomas
36 August one?
37 Big revolver?
38 Holstein's home
39 Rome's — of Caracalla
40 Lucy's landlady
41 Marker
42 "Aladdin" frame
43 Grapefruit serving
46 Way
49 Deck of destiny
51 Dewy
53 Pickling herb
54 Baseball's Slaughter
55 Puerto —
57 City on the Allegheny
58 Reply to the Little Red Hen
59 One who no's best?
61 Smug smile
62 "The Color Purple" character
65 Kirsch kin
68 Sgt. Bilko
69 Campus digs
71 Designer Lapidus
73 Bronte's "— Grey"
75 Tom, Dick, and Harry
76 Skater Cohen
77 Franco of "Camelot"
78 Cougar
79 Landed
80 Gets hitched
84 "— Gay"
85 Big rigs
86 Choppers
88 Deal with a dragon
89 Newsboy's shout
91 Kamm or Kristofferson
94 Contradict
95 Harnessed the oxen
96 Bird of prey
97 Abbreviated address
100 Sodom escapee
104 JFK abbr.
105 Fine fiber
108 Compassion
109 Moved like 116 Down
110 Woodworking tool
111 Postulate
112 Nile feature
114 Mysterious
115 Iron clothes?
116 Animal that roared?
119 Convent cubicle
121 Namu or Willy
122 Bloomsbury buggy
124 Roy Rogers' birthplace
125 Bruce or Laura
127 "Agnus —"
129 Journalist Tarbell
130 Roller-coaster unit
132 "— longa, vita brevis"
133 Brew barrel



ANSWER ON PAGE D4

Ara Mina returns to the 'adult' fold

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) gave **Mel Chionglo**'s sex-drama, "Two Timer," an R-18 classification, restricting it to adults 18 years old and above.

"Two Timer" is a tale of passion, desire, marital infidelity, forbidden love and obsession, written by the award-winning **Jun Lana**. The title alone suggests indiscretion, but Regal Entertainment managed to get the censors' approval for its latest release.

The film stars **Ara Mina** in her boldest role to date as a young housewife who leads a double life, with a dangerous sexual appetite for younger men. Even if she is married to **Albert Martinez**, Ara Mina engages in dalliances with other men to satisfy her erotic passions.

Chionglo makes sure the film shows no let up on seduction.

"This time, we take sex out of the bedroom and to the strangest places under the most thrilling circumstances," he says. "All of Ara's sex scenes with the men in the film have her doing it on the sly. The fast and the furious sex happens in an equally fast and furious pace."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS
Leah Salterio

In one highlight, Ara Mina does it with a muscular guy inside an ice delivery truck on top of chilly ice blocks. Then she takes to the water for some skinny-dipping with **Wendell** in their poolside tryst.

In another scene, Ara Mina engages in a fiery sexual encounter with a different guy inside a shoe store stock room. She even gets chained behind bars, where she is manhandled in a sweaty escapade. Then there's the mind-boggling yacht orgy with Ara Mina, Wendell and his girlfriend **Krista Ranillo**. Yes, the 18-year-old Krista also goes sexy in the film.

"Two Timer" comes on the heels of Regal's sex-dramas which have become box office hits, like "Laman" which launched **Lolita de Leon** to stardom, "Prosti" which introduced **Aubrey Miles** and "Masikip, Mainit Paraisong Parisukat," which starred **Joyce Jimenez** and **Jay Manalo**.

In "Two-Timer," it's Ara Mina's turn to sizzle on the big screen. While she teased an army of male fans in **Chito Roño**'s "Laro sa Baga," shown two years ago, Ara Mina is out to prove she can do better this time.

It has been a while since Ara Mina was last seen in a sexy flick. Her last screen project was "Ayos na ang Kasunod," opposite action king **Fernando Poe Jr.** Although she is regularly seen on the boob tube as **Eddie Garcia**'s daughter in the soap series, "Kung Mawawala Ka," Ara Mina has yet to bare her skin again on the big screen.

In "Two-Timer," she works for the first time with Chionglo, who earned raves in the Toronto Film Festival and other filmfests abroad with his earlier works like "Sibak," "Burlesk King," "Lahar" and "Lagarista."

Successful sequel

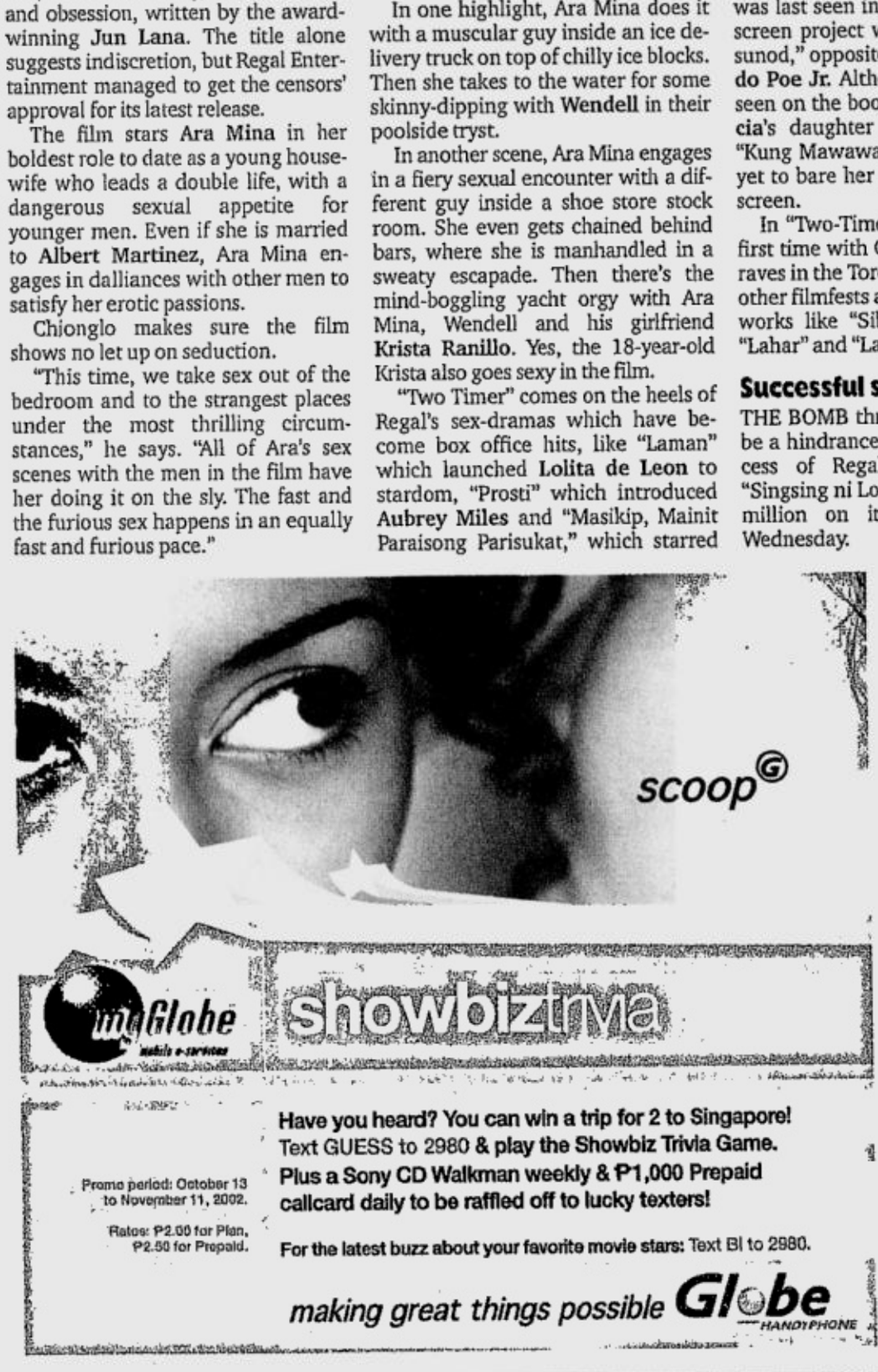
THE BOMB threats did not prove to be a hindrance to the box office success of Regal's suspense thriller, "Singsing ni Lola," which raked in P5 million on its opening day last Wednesday.

The 40th anniversary offering of Regal which is loaded with special effects, was a hit among young and old moviegoers who trooped to the theaters on its first day of showing. The success prompted studio insiders to believe that another sequel is in the offing.

"Singsing ni Lola" is the sequel to last year's "Bahay ni Lola," and continues the tradition of box office hit productions from Regal. But by all indications, "Singsing ni Lola" is expected to surpass the box office records of "Bahay ni Lola."

Half of the whopping P40 million budget of "Singsing ni Lola" was spent on special effects alone, to give the audience

ARA/ A27



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

Sunday BIZ

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

TAN

Exec uses sports to take IT firm to next level

TAN, chief executive officer of Integrated Microelectronics Inc.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ARTHUR R. Tan laid out an ambitious program for semiconductor manufacturing firm Integrated Microelectronics Inc. almost as soon as he took over the reins of the company in July last year.

If he would have his way, IMI, a member of the Ayala group of companies, would move from a purely manufacturing company into a total solutions provider in the field of electronics.

Tan also wants to see IMI include its client base to European countries such as Germany and the Netherlands through alliances with foreign companies.

While some chief executive officers turn toward wine or women to relieve the stress that comes with the responsibilities of high-level jobs such as Tan's, the 43-year-old executive leans toward sports instead.

"It (sports) fuels my competitive nature and in a way relaxes and relieves me of this stressful job.

"I am a very social person and I have found that participating in some sporting activity allows me to expand the social interaction I have with my friends and associates," Tan tells SundayBiz.

Into sports at 5

Playing different kinds of sports has been a part of Tan's life since he was 5 years old.

He was originally into basketball like most Filipinos, but soon went into other sports such as swimming and pelota.

It was in football, however, where Tan excelled.

"By the time I graduated from high school, I was offered several athletic scholarships from various colleges to play football," he says.

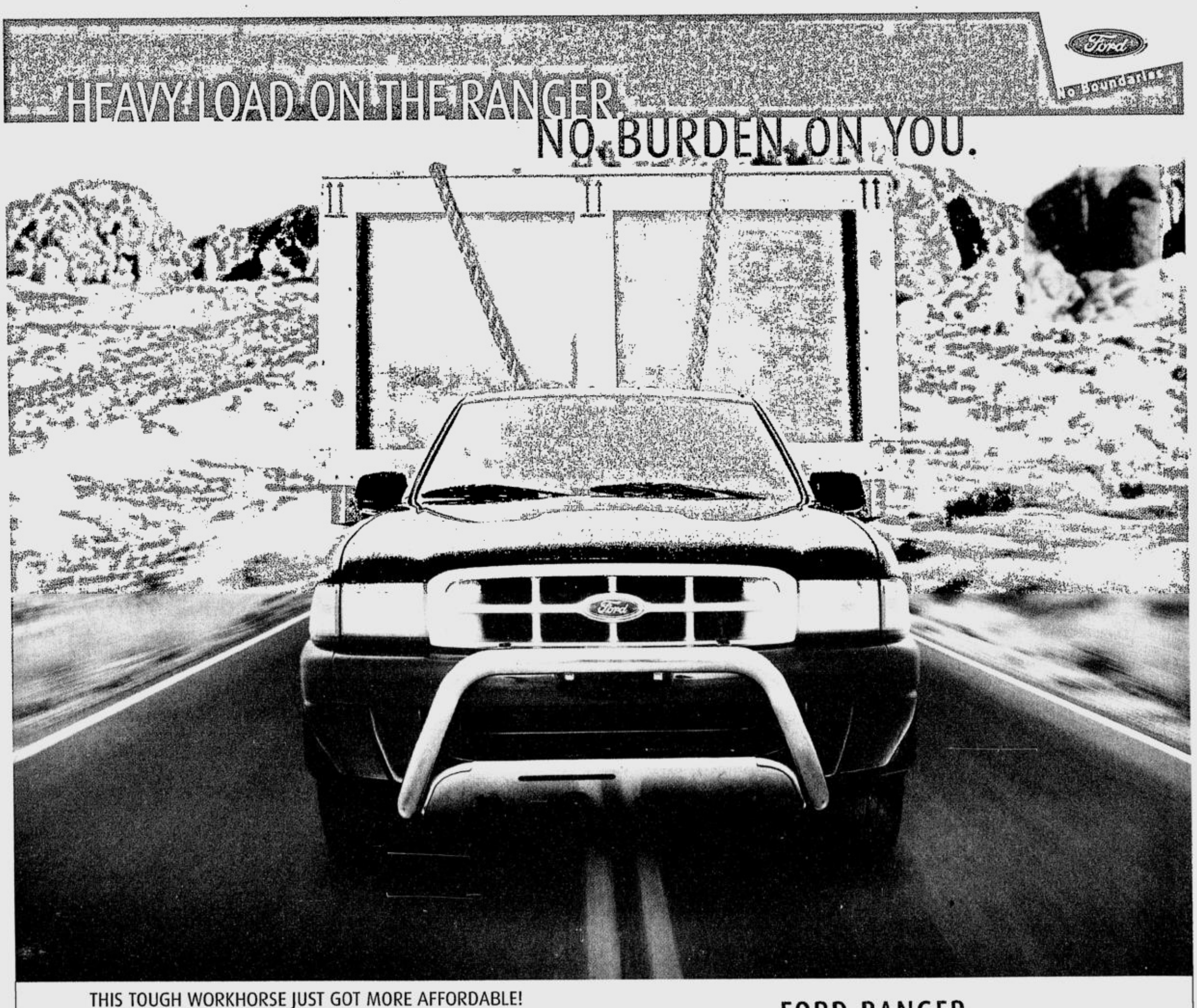
Tan ended up playing for the Mapua Institute of Technology where he took up a Bachelor of Science degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering. He has not stopped playing since.

"Although I only play football for recreation now, I have taken up downhill skiing, rollerblading, bowling, badminton, diving and golf," he says.

EXEC/B2

SKIING in Europe.

'Sports fuels my competitive nature and in a way relaxes and relieves me.'



Easing birth of midwives as entrepreneurs

ABOUT a decade ago, Purita Dantes, now 34 years old, had to keep two jobs at the same time—as an assistant to physicians at a maternity lying-in clinic and at a Novaliches hospital—only to earn a measly P2,000 at the end of the month.

Although her income was not enough to take care of the daily needs of her family, Purita, or Rita to close friends and patients, thought that she was still lucky. After all, it is a rare feat for somebody like her who had just finished her Midwifery course at Lantin College in Sangandaan, Quezon City, and passed the midwives board examinations to be, at least, doubly employed.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Now comfortable and secure in life, Rita, a young mother of two, earns a minimum monthly gross income of P60,000 as one of the midwife-entrepreneurs of the Well-Family Midwife Clinics.

Her story is just one of the many success stories of the birth of midwives as entrepreneurs in the Philippines.

"All I wanted was to have a decent salary and to practice what I've learned in school. I also aspired to do community work, so when the Quezon City Hall accepted midwives to do rural help, I applied," Rita says.

Fact is midwives are probably the least recognized in the hierarchy of the health care provider chain. Nowadays, they don't get the chance to practice what they have learned in school because more often than not, they end up as mere assistants to physicians, or if they are fortunate enough, they get to volunteer or be accepted as contractual employees.

Seeking greener pastures elsewhere, usually as caregivers abroad, is a common path some of them usually take.

But Rita had something more important in mind. She knew she did not have to leave her family just to provide their basic needs. She believed her time will soon come, and all she had to do was practice her profession with a passion while praying and waiting for that big break.

Rita's big break came in the form of Well-Family Midwife Clinic (WFMC).

"I gave it (WFMC) a try because it was my dream to have a clinic I could call my own. Before that dream was really impossible because I knew I had nothing and no one to financially support me. But then during the WFMC seminar, I've learned we would be receiving backup support from NGOs, so I was not afraid anymore," adds Rita.

The WFMC is the product of the creative concept conceived in 1997 by JSI Research and Training Institute Inc., a Boston-based nongovernment organization specializing in technical assistance to public health programs, and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Under Project Tango (Technical Assistance for the Conduct of Integrated Family Planning and Maternal Health Services by Philippine Nongovernment Organizations), JSI and USAID launched a program that will make health services more accessible and affordable to middle and lower-income groups. In partnership with eight NGOs, Project TANGO started the establishment of a network of midwife-owned and operated clinics that provide quality and affordable FP/MCH services in key urban areas and selected municipalities of the country.

"Tango project aims to build a network of franchise-type service delivery facilities consistent with the theme of entrepreneurship, ownership and empowerment combining business and social development concepts. This objective is realized through the WFMC," says Easter Dasmarinas, resident advisor of JSI.

The WFMC is the concrete end product of numerous trainings and seminars on FP/MCH services and business development a midwife like Rita went through.

Like the standard WFMC all over the country, Rita's own WFMC provides FP/MCH services, checkups, counseling on contraceptives, pregnancy tests, minor gynecological services such as pap smears and basic health services within the competence of the midwife like normal spontaneous delivery, pre- and post-natal care and immunization.

THE WELL-FAMILY clinic that made Dantes a certified entrepreneur.

DANTES

The clinic also provides blood pressure and weight taking as well as wound dressing and first aid.

With a monthly income ranging from P25,000 to P250,000, depending on the location of the clinic, the WFMC seems a lucrative option for any midwife. However, not all of them are qualified to just go into business.

"As the saying goes, 'Many are called, but few are chosen.' We adhere to some strict standards in choosing our midwives to run the WFMCs as clinic managers. We believe these standards set the brand of our network of midwife-run clinics that has only the best in quality and safe FP/MCH services for the public," Dasmarinas says.

The chosen midwife then undergoes rigid training in these three areas: quality assurance, business development, and marketing and promotions.

"Like the previous midwives who are now clinic managers of WFMCs, I also went through trainings in basic and comprehensive family planning services and business planning which are crucial for would-be entrepreneurs," states Rita.

Just like any business franchise, the midwives-entrepreneurs have to shell out investment money when putting up their own WFMC. The reasonable amount mainly depends on the costs for construction or renovation of the clinic to be opened.

"If it all comes for free, the tendency is not to work hard for it, and it is not the concept we provide in order to produce hardworking, responsible and world-class midwives," Dasmarinas says.

As part of JSI's support services to the would-be midwife-entrepreneur, it conducts feasibility and marketing appraisals to determine a prospective clinic's strategic location, as well as providing her clinic with the necessary equipment and instruments including a delivery table, the WFMC signages and marketing promotional materials.

Each facility is monitored regularly to ensure quality service and the midwife is also required to have backup physicians and a referral hospital in case of medical emergencies.

"I shelled out P80,000, a part of which was a loan from my sister and my own savings. It was used for the renovation of the clinic, for the purchase of tables and chairs, beds and other essential clinic facilities. So in November 2000, my own WFMC opened in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City," recalls Rita.

She said the first months of operations were difficult but everything paid off, and soon enough, Rita's WFMC became known in the community.

"Of course, I also had my fears about my business, like what if it won't work or what if I wouldn't get the return of investment (ROI). But I just told myself that everything depends on me, on how I would push my full potential to make my business a success," recounts Rita.

Rita is a picture of a hardworking businesswoman who constantly thinks of ways to improve her clinic's services and income. As a result, Rita's WFMC is one of the fast-earning WFMCs in the country, generating an income of P5,000 a day, or P60,000 to P80,000 a month.

Rita's WFMC usually has 15 to 20 patients a day. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but she is also on call round the clock depending on patients who still seek her services especially deliveries. She has two assistant midwives as her staff, who are also trained by JSI. So far, she can say that she has earned the fruits of her labor based on the favorable response she gets from patients.

Currently, there are over 200 WFMCs all over the country and nine NGOs to back them up. JSI is now working toward sustainability of the current network of WFMCs and the future clinics to come. It aims to continually improve the quality of service of the WFMCs and the training it provides to the selected midwives in order to give the best health care service within the reach of its target market.

Through the WFMCs, JSI encourages community work by working hand in hand with the government in providing an affordable option for the middle and lower-income groups. This is working within its tagline of "Affordable Quality Health Care At Your Convenience."

"The WFMC realizes the dreams of simple midwives like me. I really believe this will generate more success in the future. I highly recommend this to other midwives who also have their share of financial difficulties in the family. In fact, I even encourage my former co-workers to try it out because this might be the answer to all their prayers," enthuses Rita.

(For any inquiry on how to apply for franchise or support the Well-Family Midwife Clinics, you may call the JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. at 371-9717, 373-4097, or 4103997 or visit its website at www.jsitango.com . Emails can be sent through project@jsitango.com.)

Exec uses sports to take IT firm to next level

From page B1

Spirit of competition

Tan explains that it is the spirit of competition that drives him to play different kinds of sports, although he admits to not exactly being an expert in any one.

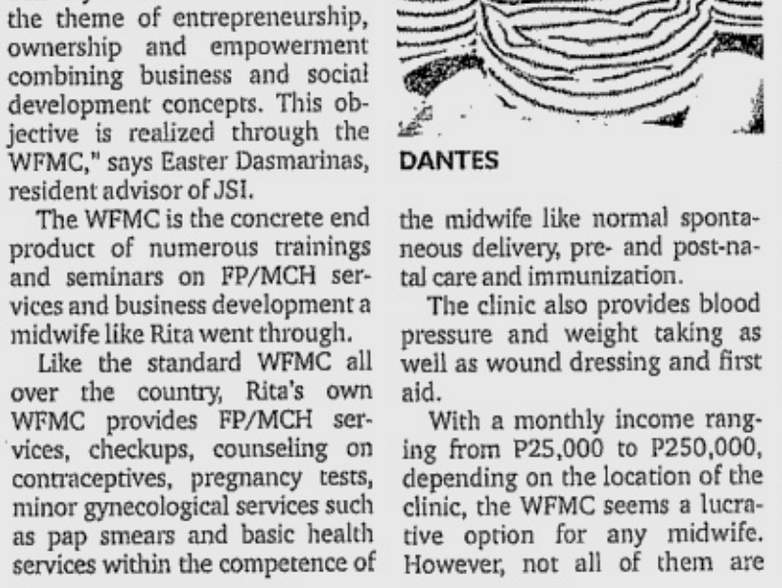
"I have so many sports. This may be why I have not excelled very well in any one sport, but I do try to be competitive in all of them," he says.

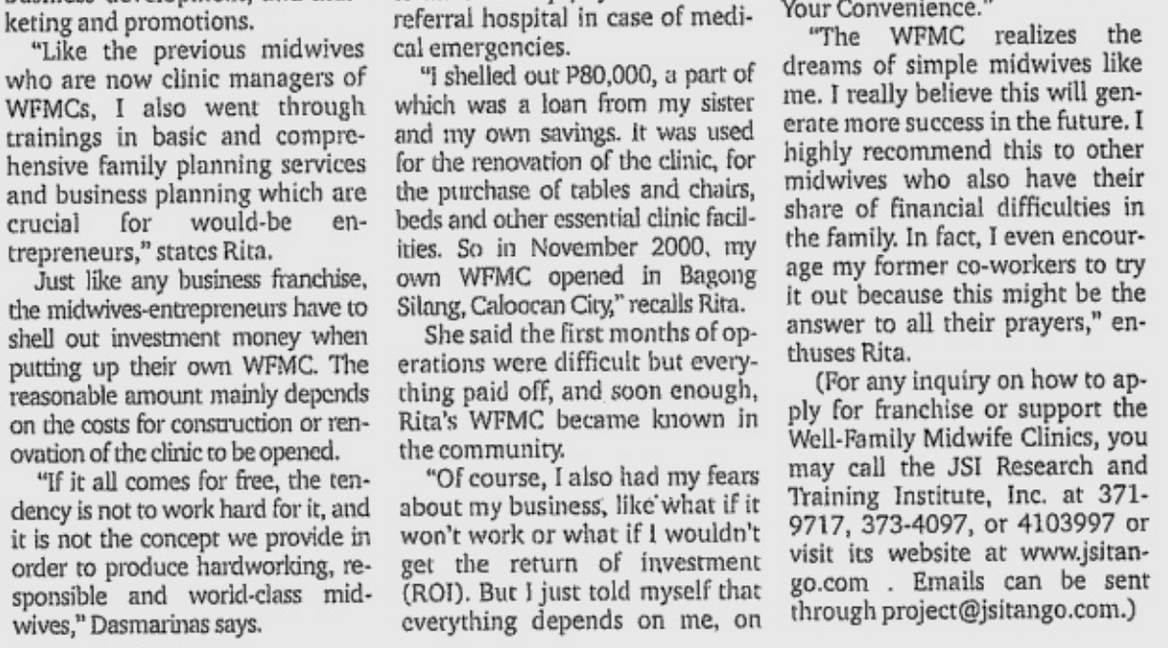
Taking up the challenge to come out on top was one of the reasons behind Tan's decision to take up the Ayala group's offer for him to leave his lucrative post in the United States, take over the semiconductor firm and work at taking it to the next level.

One-year decision

It took Tan, who went on to study at the University of Idaho and Harvard University, about a year to make the decision after meeting with Ayala Corp. president Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Ayala managing directors Delfin Lazaro and Felimon T. Berba Jr.

But once he made the decision, he went right in and proceeded to map out a different future for the semiconductors firm.


GETTING ready to swing.



PARTICIPATING in a tree-planting event.

Before joining the Ayala group, Tan worked in the United States for 14 years. His last post was managing director of American Microsystems Inc., a multinational company engaged in semiconductor manufacturing.

Six sigma company

While Tan was in charge of AMI's Asian operations, AMI sales in the region grew from $6 million to $46 million. He plans to pull off a similar feat in IMI.

One of the programs that Tan has spearheaded is to turn IMI into a Six Sigma company.

The Six Sigma is a corporate philosophy that would hopefully make IMI truly quality conscious. The proof is to limit the production of rejects to just three out of a million products.

"It would not be an easy thing because the project would have to involve everybody from the decision makers to the operators. I believe that once we are done we would be the first Filipino company to be Six Sigma," he says.

Tan stresses that IMI has to undergo this difficult process because it is the only way for the company to remain competitive.

"Productivity and quality are our only competitive advantage. Knowing that, we have to continually raise the bar because competition is catching up and the market is changing," he says.

Making his 8,900-strong company motivated to go through the quality process is one of his major jobs as CEO.

He says he tries to guide them through the process by making the vision for the company clear and providing an environment where the people can perform as expected.

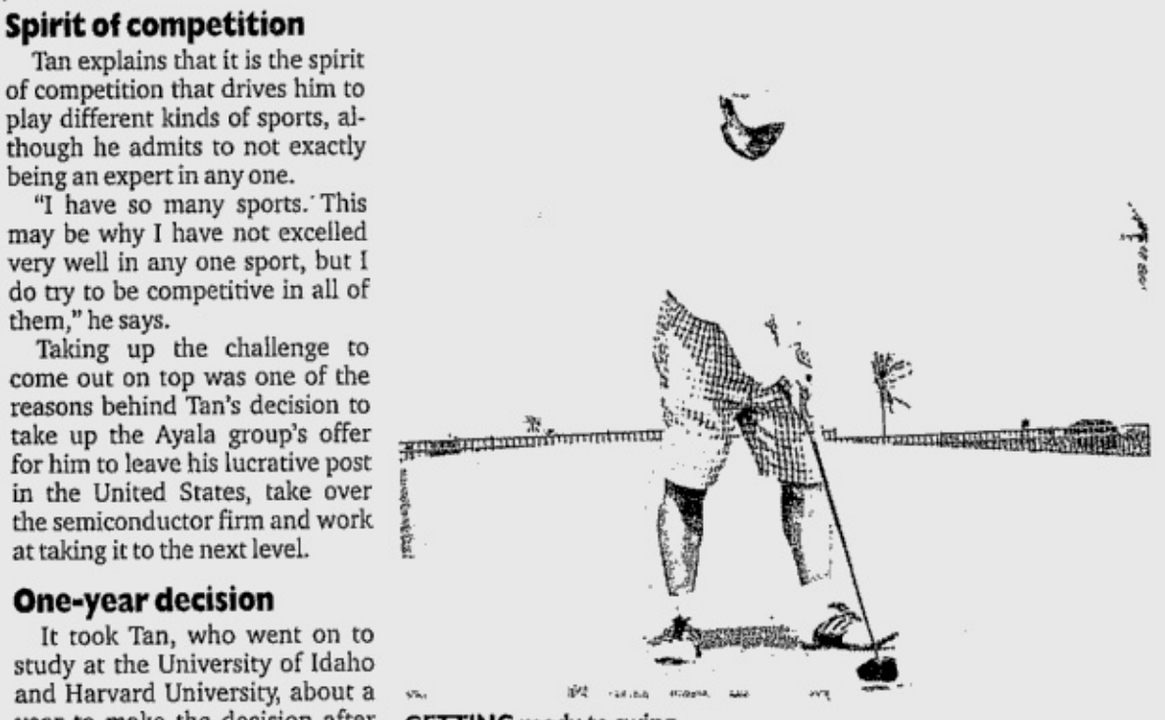
No Mr. Popular

"I also told everybody at the onset that I cannot make everybody happy. I can't be Mr. Popular but I can be fair," he says.

People like him who are into sports know the importance of continuous improvement better than anyone.

This partly explains why Tan exerts the extra effort to put sports into his busy schedule.

"The job is demanding and time management plays an important role in forging a balanced/structured life. I am actually more diligent in my sporting activities when I travel. Most of my sporting schedule revolves around the people that I end up playing with, whether golf, scuba, bowling, football or motorcycling," he adds.


IMI employees at work.

TAN plays a round of golf with business associates.

Ilocano blacksmiths make cut in business

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—Unlike the Panday in the famous movie, Ilocos Norte's *pandays* (blacksmiths) don't have magical powers. But the sharpness of their blades is legendary.

Poe had been to various Ilocos Norte spots where a series of "Ang Panday" films were shot. Blacksmiths here say they would love to equip Poe with a much-improved sword or dagger the next time he films in the province.

Ernesto Bumanglag of Bumanglag's Blacksmith and Metal Craft in San Nicolas town grew in a family of blacksmiths.

Bumanglag eventually made a living out of forging iron to equip not just warriors but also farmers with plowshares, cooks with efficient kitchen knives and craftsmen with better tools.

He is not gifted with a physique like Poe's but Bumanglag's frail body is accustomed to the cruel job of repeatedly heating the iron or metal scrap in a furnace and hammering it on an anvil to achieve the desired form of his blades.

Bumanglag produces at least three medium-sized *buneng* (a large and single-edged blade) a day. His six workers, mostly family members, share the load on a tasking scheme.

He starts working on reshaping metal scraps in assorted shapes and sizes and passes them on to his workers for sanding and assembling. Bumanglag goes right back to do the finishing touches.

JUN Bumanglag at the electric sander. PHOTOS BY CRISTINA ARZADON

The handle of most blades is made up of either carabao or deer horn. Blacksmiths rarely use the deer horn, no matter how many handles can be broken down from it because deer hunting is seasonal and is concentrated in the wilds of Solsona town.

"My husband has been into this job since he was 12. He is still the firm's chief smith now that he is 56," says his wife Rosita.

In 1976, the couple started marketing their blades, ranging from bolos (large, single-edged blade), kitchen knives, kumpay (sickle with toothed blade), arado (plowshare) to "Rambo" knives (jungle knives), in the city market and the public took notice.

An Ilocano soldier assigned in Mindanao showed off to his companions a jungle knife that Bumanglag made. The soldiers told the Ilocano soldier that they didn't want him to return to Mindanao unless he brought along more samples.

The soldier brought along at least 10 Rambo knives at a time when he returned to Mindanao and sold these to his fellow soldiers at a higher price.

The income he derived from trading the blades covered his travel expenses in going to Ilocos Norte and back to his Mindanao assignment.

Rosita is no blacksmith but she takes pride in being called "asawa ng Panday" by her patrons each time she hops from one town and down to the neighboring province of Ilocos Sur selling her husband's blades.

Rosita shuttles from one town to another during market days, bringing along at least three suitcases full of assorted blades. Her top sellers are kumpay and buneng, which are bought by the dozens at any given day.

Plowshares are also marketable but these are usually called seasonal tools because their usefulness comes around during the planting period from June to August.

Rosita says the family business draws a steady income from local buyers.

But supplying a trader in Basco, Batanes, derives a larger demand for the couple's products. The trader would order 200 pieces of plowshare at a time and sells these to her province mates.

"Trading our products has become cheaper because we now have the sea-link (between Currimao, Ilocos Norte, and Basco, Batanes)."

A SAMPLE of Laoag knives.

"Our Basco customer used to cringe every time she places an order because that would mean an additional freight cost of P2,000 and up. The only way to transport our goods then was through domestic flights from Laoag to Basco," Rosita said.

With the weekly voyage of the MV Ivatan Princess from the Currimao port to Basco, the Bumanglags can provide as many blades as their customer wants because cargo rate is at P1 a kilogram.

Compared with other local industries, however, the production of blades is not yet listed as an industry winner by the Department of Trade and Industry.

An industry profiling conducted by the DTI-Ilocos Norte showed a moderate demand of metal handicraft in the domestic market.

The six DTI-registered firms, including Bumanglag's metal craft store, posted an average monthly production of 57 kitchen knives and 109 bolos with a combined monthly income of P25,000 for each business owner.

The Bumanglag couple has been slowly expanding its market by participating in DTI-hosted trade fairs but it has yet to capitalize on the growing demand of metal crafts from outside the region.

Like other backyard entrepreneurs, the Bumanglags rely heavily on their business income to purchase raw materials, equipment and pay for workers' salaries.

A regular participant in national trade fairs, the couple nearly inked an agreement with a United States-based export company. The business prospect would have required them to supply the firm with a minimum of 200 jungle knives a month.

"But we don't have the capital, the workers and equipment to come up with a bigger volume," Rosita said.

She said their firm's principal tools are a unit of electric sander and an open fire furnace.

The US firm's representative ended up buying all the jungle knives the couple had brought along for the fair. That a foreigner would take notice of a locally made blade is already a major achievement for the Bumanglag couple.

Negros fair a sweet success

By Michelle V. Remo

LOREN almost filled three large shopping bags and probably spent thousands for her purchases, but she still couldn't keep herself from buying some more.

No, she was not spending for her family's one-month grocery nor does she own a sari-sari store to fill with stocks.

Loren was merely a delighted shopper who found the items in the Negros Trade Fair hard to resist.

With products ranging from elegant home décors—some made of coconut husks, corn and pandan leaves—pastries, native food which may be a novelty for urban shoppers like the Bulabid (a *dilis* variant) and Bukog (edible fish bone), to fashion accessories and gift items tinged with artistry, it was not a surprise many shoppers like Loren went home from the Negros Trade Fair with smiles on their faces.

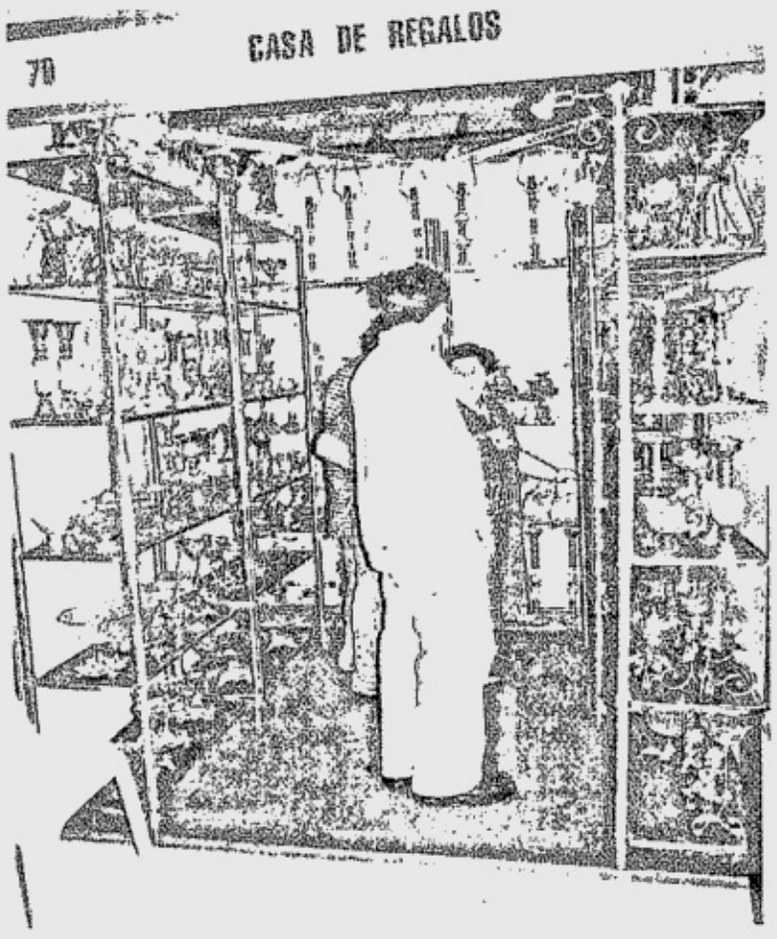
With almost a hundred producers participating in the event that showcased the Negrenses' high-quality products, shoppers flocked to the Megatrade hall in Megamall during the five-day event, giving the event a festive atmosphere.

The fair, which ran from Oct. 2 to 6, generated over P12 million in sales.

For 15 years now, the Association of Negros Producers (ANP) has been staging the Negros Trade Fair with the aim to promote products from the Negros province to the bigger urban market and to endorse the province itself.

Starting with only a few, the ANP now has over a hundred small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs as its members, evidencing the benefits of being a part of the organization.

Espousing the interest of Negros producers, ANP offers various programs and initiatives, such as skills development training and lectures on entrepreneurship (which includes the basics of exporting). These training programs are spearheaded by the ANP Foundation for Enterprise Development Inc. (ANPFEDI).



SHOWCASING the best of the islands.

The Designers Guild Philippines Negros Island, meanwhile, handles the aesthetic side of doing business.

The guild particularly hopes to establish a "design-oriented culture" among its member-producers to make their products viable even in the international arena. With this aim thus comes the effort to provide services toward design improvement like putting up a research design library, establishing tie-ups with other design groups and conducting more training programs on product development.

The Benedictine Sisters of the Rural Mission (BSRM) is one ANP member who has been taking part in the annual Negros Trade Fair.

The religious organization is known for its herbal products, such as *malunggay* seeds for arthritis, allium sativa (which came from garlic) for high blood pressure and Momordica Charantia (from *ampalaya*) for anemia and diabetes.

These products are planted and harvested by the town folks themselves with BSRM's initiative to promote self-reliance among people from their community. The proceeds are then given back to the workers for the education and basic needs of their children.

Benefiting from its membership to the ANP, workers from the BSRM are able to boost more sales of their produce and thus help uplift the living conditions in their community.

With the Negros Province being a major producer of sugar and its people dependent on the sugar industry, the sugar crisis of the 1980s, caused by the fall of the price of sugar in the local and world market, displaced a lot of workers.

With this sad event, concerned Negrense women who were based in Manila were prompted to help uplift the economy of their hometown. They initiated trade fairs in Manila showcasing products from the Negros province, thus giving birth to the ANP.

The Negrense women who founded the ANP include Tima Lacson, Rosa Isabel Ledesma, Nora Varela, Cynthia Flores, Sylvia "Gigi" Campos and Mitos Cooper.

One highlight of the annual trade fair is the Bulawan (Golden) Awards, which recognizes creativity of member-producers as shown by innovations and designs of their products.

Winners of this year's Bulawan Awards are the following:

Food Category: Treasures pastry made of *kamias* and chocolates by Virgie Chua of Virgie's Homemade Products;

Lighting category: Screen Lamp by Christine Gonzaga (designer) of Saigon Export

Lumina Category: (for candle holders/candelabras) Vase candleholders by Reena Peña (designer) of Silay Export

Furniture and Furnishing: Door with jarlequin on door jamb, swirl flower stick and woodstrings with bras inlay by Johanna Lacson (designer) of Johanna's Export;

Gifts and Novelties: Crocheted nativity set by Sylvia Campos (designer) of VS Heirlooms;

Housewares & tabletops: Twisted banana leaf platter by Ina Gaston (designer) of Hacienda Crafts Co.

Fashion Accessories: Beachwear collection by Dra. Melissa Anglo (designer) of Anglo designs;

Garments and Linens: Back to classics infants' collections by Alexandra Francisco (designer) of A&T Garments; and

Best Dressed Booth: Ines Moda Infantil, booth of children's clothes

FASHION accessories are consistent crowd drawers to the trade fair.

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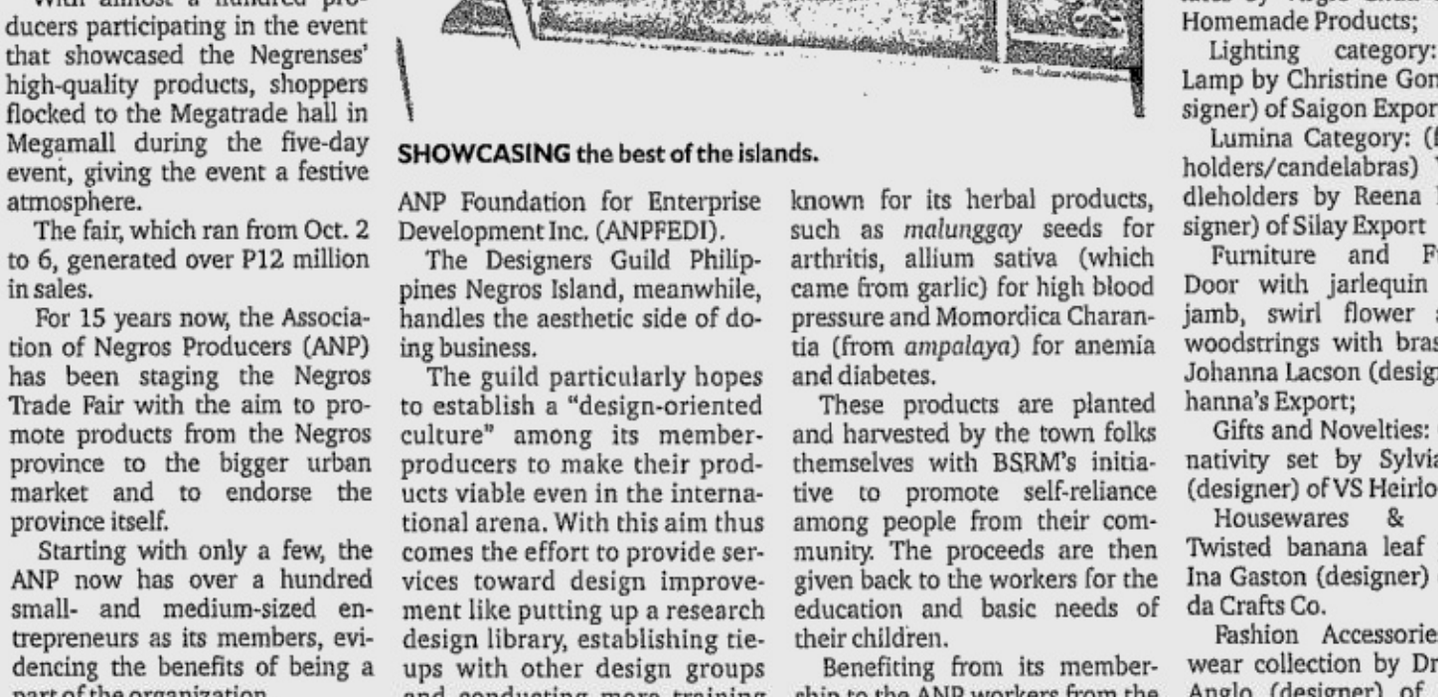

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Pioneer Subdivision, Mandaluyong City

WANTED
Computer Programmer

- B.S. Computer Science or B.S. Computer Engineering
- 3-5 years experience in VB6 Software Applications

Please send resumé to:
W.L. Segovia & Associates, Inc.
Unit 202 Heart Building
7461 Bagtikan Street Makati City
Tel. Nos. 896-4293 / 895-3698

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE

420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The **Philippine Air Force Disposal Committee** will receive sealed bids until **04 Dec 2002, 2:00 P.M.** at **Conference Room of 420th Supply Wing,** Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"as is, where is"** basis:

Lot Number / Description	LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Lot 5-283-022 – 10 T-28 engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanda, Pampanga	P3,150,000
Lot 5-283-023– 8 T-28 engines w/out canister	-do-	P2,070,000
Lot IID - assorted acft parts	-do-	P39,640
Lot IID –assorted acft parts	-do-	P74,603
Lot I – 1: F-8H aircraft nr **302**	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga	P1,350,000
Lot I – 2: F-8H aircraft nr **307**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 3: F-8H aircraft nr **309**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 4: F-8H aircraft nr **311**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 5: F-8H aircraft nr **316**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 6: F-8H aircraft nr **317**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 7: F-8H aircraft nr **320**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 8: F-8H aircraft nr **322**	-do-	P1,350,000

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Buyers of F-8H aircraft are required to submit an **"End Use - End User Certification"**
6. Additional information / request for inspection may be secured from the Disposal Unit, 420th SW, tel nr. (045) 599-2014/2015 loc. 6524
7. Pre-bid conference and Issuance of Bid Forms (P100. 00 per set) will be on **21 Nov, 2002, 2:00 P.M. at 420th SW Conference Room,** 420th SW, Clark Air Base. Angeles City, Pampanga
8. Inspection schedule will be from 05 Nov to 29 Nov 2002, from 0800H to 1700H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE **PAF.**

PAF Disposal Committee

(Sgd.) **Col. CLAUDIO P ESTALILLA PAF (GSC)**
Wing Commander, 420th SW, PAF
Chairman

(PDI: Nov 2, 3, 4, 2002)

The **WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT-PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT**
a project of the Government of the Philippines, executed by the Department of Health
with funding support from the European Union (EU)

The WHSMP-PC works in close collaborations with its Partners, the DOH Centers for Health Development, LGUs and NGOs, to improve the health status of women through the use of community health development techniques, which enable women at the barangay level identify and articulate their health needs and be involved in developing and implementing plans to achieve positive changes for health.

The project has been granted a 15 month Extension, is now seeking highly qualified and experienced

❑ SENIOR MONITORING and EVALUATION SPECIALIST

The person we are seeking will have: relevant social science qualifications, preferably at a masters level, with applied research units, as well as extensive knowledge and experience in research design and implementation, and monitoring and evaluation techniques utilizing both qualitative and quantitative data and information. Experience working with community based programs and projects would be an advantage.
Please Note: This position is based in Manila

❑ FINANCE and ADMINISTRATION SECTION CHIEF

The person we are seeking: will have qualifications, preferably at a post graduate level, in Commerce, Business Management or other relevant area of study, with at least 5 years experience in senior roles in the various aspects of administrative and financial management. They will be responsible for the supervision and management of the Projects financial and administrative activities of the regional office, and will demonstrate initiative, a strong commitment to excellence and a well-developed sense of responsibility and integrity. A CPA license would be an advantage.
Please Note: This position is based in Butuan

ONLY INDIVIDUALS WHO MEET THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS SHOULD APPLY.

Interested and qualified applicants should submit their letter of response and a comprehensive resumé by e-mail or fax on or before **November 8, 2002** to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Building, 1991 Mabini Street
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406
E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

DIVINA GRACIA R. SUMABAT

Notice is hereby given to the public that **MS. DIVINA GRACIA R. SUMABAT,** whose picture appears hereinabove with the last known address at Blk 3 Lot 7 Phase VI Sphere Street, Golden City Subdivision, Taytay, Rizal, has outstanding Warrant of Arrest issued by Pasig Regional Trial Court, Branch 161, for the crime of ESTAFA entitled "People of the Philippines vs. Divina Gracia R. Sumabat", criminal case no. 123442.

Any person who may have information as to her whereabouts, please contact telephone nos. 681-1270 & 681-3131.

(PDI – NOV. 3, 2002)

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or padell49@yahoo.com

Department of Agriculture
MINDANAO RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Program Coordination Office
Sultan Omar Bldg., Quezon Blvd., Kidapawan City
Tel. No. (064) 288-5366

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SPECIALISTS

General Function:
The candidates will be responsible in assisting the Program in providing or coordinating the provision of technical assistance to the participating LGUs in the areas of resources assessment, problem analysis, intervention planning, resources allocation and agricultural extension.

Qualifications:
- Less than 50 years old
- Preferably graduates of Rural Development, Agricultural Extension or related courses
- With at least 3 years of relevant experience preferably with foreign-assisted agricultural development projects
- Familiar with participatory, sustainable development processes
- Preferably a resident of Mindanao

FINANCIAL SUPERVISOR

General Function:
The candidate will be primarily responsible for the supervision of the Program's Financial Analysts in the assessment, coordination and processing of Financial requirements of participating LGUs.

Qualifications:
- A Certified Public Accountant
- Less than 50 years old
- With at least 3 years experience in accounting work with LGUs
- With experience in development project accounting
- Familiar with project guidelines of government and funding agencies
- Preferably a resident in Mindanao

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

General Function:
The candidate will be primarily responsible for the financial management of the Program.

Qualifications:
- Less than 50 years old
- Preferably a resident of Mindanao
- With at least 5 years experience in Financial and Management Accounting preferably with government projects assisted by the World Bank
- With experience as financial analyst or supervisor in development programs implementation preferably with GOP and LGUs as implementing agencies
- A Certified Public Accountant

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION SPECIALISTS

Places of Assignment:
The CO Specialist will be assigned to each of the municipalities covered by the Program in Cotabato, Maguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Sur, and Compostela Valley Provinces.

Geheral Functions:
The CO Specialist will primarily be responsible for the training, education and development of the Barangay Facilitators responsible for developing the capabilities of community associations which accessed MRDP funds.
The CO Specialist will work with Municipal Facilitators in providing the necessary technical training required by community associations relative to the planning, implementation, organization, operations and maintenance of sub-projects.

Qualifications:
- Must have at least 5 years of experience in doing / supervising Community Organizing work
- Preferably a graduate of Social Sciences
- Between 27-40 years old
- Possesses excellent interpersonal skills (communication, leadership)

Application letters must be received not later than 04 November 2002.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ODETTE Q. AUSTRIA
(a.k.a Odette Lim / Maryann Soriano)

Please be advised the person, pictured and named above, ceased employment with

CLUBHOTEL PHILIPPINES, INC.
as of August 02, 2002.
Any transaction processed by Ms. Austria will not be honoured by
CLUBHOTEL PHILIPPINES, INC.

(PDI - Nov. 3, 2002)

The Project Management Office of the Caraga Food Sufficiency Project Phase I (CFSP I), a cooperation project between the Spanish Government through the Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional (AECI) and the Philippine Government through the NEDA-RDC Caraga announces:

JOB VACANCY for PROJECT OFFICER

1. The PO will be under the direct supervision of the Co-Managers and provides technical assistance relative to the implementation of the project.
2. Qualifications
   - 2.1 Must be a licensed civil, agricultural engineer or related engineering course (post graduate studies will be considered a plus factor);
   - 2.2 Must have minimum of 5 years work experience in rural infrastructure development preferably on post harvest facilities;
   - 2.3 Must have experience working with LGUs preferably foreign assisted rural development projects and had exposure to cooperative undertakings;
   - 2.4 Must be computer literate and with knowledge on government processes and systems;
   - 2.5 Must have excellent communication skills (written and oral, both in English and Filipino and Cebuano), analytical skills, and training and facilitation skills;
   - 2.6 Hardworking, highly motivated and can work well with minimal supervision;
   - 2.7 Must be willing to relocate to Butuan City

Interested applicants should submit their application letter including detailed curriculum vitae or resumé not later than November 15, 2002 and be addressed to:

MS. CARMENCITA S. COCHINGCO
Regional Director
National Economic and Development Authority
Bel Air Subd., Km. 3, Libertad, Butuan City
Tel. No.(085)341-7685; Fax No.: (085)815-0308

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public by Nagase Phils. Corp. at 18B Trafalgar Plaza, HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati with Tel. Nos. 750-29-31 to 33 the lost of Official Receipt nos. 201-500.

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Greenhills, San Juan: Unit E, 4th Floor, Goldland Plaza Condominium, Eisenhower St., San Juan	214.00	5,065,200.00
Quezon City: Vacant Lot, Bonifacio St., Veterans Village Area I, Tandang Sora	400.00	1,166,400.00
Unit 18, Mariposa Villas, Cubao (townhouse-3 bedrooms each with T&B)	254.688	5,940,000.00
Parañaque City: Vacant Lot located along Thomas Street, Multinational Village	800.00	4,080,000.00
2-storey elegant residential house, corner Thomas and John Street, Multinational Village	LA: 1,175.00 FA: 815.00	16,256,250.00
Mandaluyong City: Industrial Land & Bldg. J. Rizal St., Barangay Namayan, rear portion is Pasig River	4,287.00	60,917,220.00
Caloocan City: 1-storey residential Bungalow, Reparo St., Sta. Quiteria	FA: 258 LA: 405.00	1,200,600.00
Valenzuela City: 3-storey Residential-Warehouse Bldg., Doneza St., Balubaran	FA:1,374 LA: 750.00	2,025,000.00
Rizal: 1-Storey Bungalow, Cor. Pearl & Diamond, Cainta, Greenpark Village	FA: 282 LA: 441.00	2,194,400.00
Piggery Farm, Bo. Palakaan, San Mateo Capacity 1,000-1,500 heads	5,661.00	3,071,880.00
Laguna: 3 parcels of vacant lots, Doña Marcela Subdivision, Canlalay, Biñan	LA: 120, 165 & 213.00	2,300/sq.m.
Cavite: Vacant Lot, Phase 8, Manila Southwoods, Carmona	434.00	2,187,360.00
Bataan: Vacant Lot, Bo. Cabcaben, Mariveles/near Mountainview Subd.	39,783.00	8,772,120.00
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Batangas: Lot w/ warehouse, San Pascual, (formerly cement repacking)	FA: 720.00 LA 21,563.00	16,769,520.00
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Quezon Province: Orchard located at Bo. Canaway, General Nakar, Quezon Along National Highway, Plaridel (Back is Lamon Bay) Lot areas at 747.0; 902.0 and 1,305.0 sq.m. at P900.00/sq.m. / can be sold separately	179,214.00	896,700.00
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HOUSE

MAKATI

Dasma/pool 100T 8133827-28

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MAKATI

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APARTMENT

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HWYHILS 2BR U/D 8212091

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CARS

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'98 Galanat S/S 400TH A-1 0917-8470057

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Tax Marketing 456-8634

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE O THE LATE DANILO V. DANCEL AT PARANAQUE COVERED BY TCT NO. 115983 HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY-SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 510; PAGE NO. 409; BOOK NO. I; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE ATTY MA. THELMA B. CAPARAS NOTARY PUBLIC
POI-OCT. 27, NOV. 3 & 10, 2002

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Department of Health
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 807-26-28 to 32 Fax No. 842-22-45

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
ITB NO. 2002-05

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) hereby invites sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

1. 6,000 vials Equine Rabies Immune Globutin, 1,000 I.u., 5 ml.

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committee for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Dental, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies & Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Mr. Noel Mandac or Ms. Mae Marie Hernandez at the Property & Supply Department, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Schedule of Activities

a.)	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 11-12, 2002 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
b.)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	November 15, 2002 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
c.)	Pre-bid Conference	November 22, 2002 (1:30 p.m.) Lecture Room 1, Training Center, RITM
d.)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	November 27, 2002 (1:30 p.m.) Lecture Room 1, Training Center, RITM

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-bid conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the schedule day of bid opening accompanied by bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the total bid price. The bid security maybe in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the RITM's action.

(Sgd.) SALVACION R. GATCHALIAN, M.D.
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 3 & 10, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

WINFRED G. ARGARIN

Winfred G. Argarin, whose picture appears above, has been separated for cause from **Marsman Westminster Travel, Inc.**

Effective **October 15, 2002**, any transaction entered into by the above individual in behalf of the company shall no longer be honored.

(PDI – Nov. 3, 2002)

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Department of Health
RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR TROPICAL MEDICINE
Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
Tel. Nos. 807-26-28 to 32 Fax No. 842-22-45

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID
ITB NO. 2002-06

The Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) hereby invites sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

1. 150,000 pcs. Injection Vials, 2R Blow Back, Amber, Approx. 3.5 ml brimful Type I Borosilicate Glass, Dimension as per sample
   Includes: 1. Flutted/Lyo Rubber Stopper (as per sample)
   - Pre wash and silicon coated
   - Kept in Sterilizable Bag
   2. Flip Off Aluminum Cap (as per sample)
   - Crimp Caps
2. 150,000 pcs. Injection Vials, 2R Blow Back, Clear, approx. 3.5 ml brimful, Type I Borosilicate Glass, Dimension as per sample
   Includes: 1. Injection Stopper (as per sample)
   - Pre wash and silicon coated
   - Kept in Sterilizable Bag
   2. Flip Off Aluminum Cap (as per sample)
   - Crimp Caps

Note: Bidders are requested to submit samples for evaluation.

Only responsible and duly accredited suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors as certified by the Suppliers Accreditation Committee for Drugs and Medicines and for Medical, Dental, Environmental, Surgical and Laboratory Supplies & Materials of the Department of Health are qualified to participate in this bidding.

Bidding documents can be secured from Mr. Noel Mandac or Ms. Mae Marie Hernandez at the Property & Supply Department, Research Institute for Tropical Medicine, upon payment of non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Schedule of Activities

a.)	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 11-12, 2002 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
b.)	Submission of Eligibility Requirements	November 15, 2002 (9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)
c.)	Pre-bid Conference	November 22, 2002 (2:30 a.m.) Lecture Room 1, Training Center, RITM
d.)	Submission and Opening of Sealed Bids	November 27, 2002 (2:30 p.m.) Lecture Room 1, Training Center, RITM

Only Pre-qualified Bidders shall be allowed to attend the Pre-bid Conference. Attendance to the Pre-bid conference is a must and failure to show up shall be deemed to have waived his right to participate.

Sealed bids must be submitted on the schedule day of bid opening accompanied by bid security in the amount equivalent to two and a half percent (2.5%) of the total bid price. The bid security maybe in the form of cash, Cashier's or Manager's check, bank draft or guarantee against any reputable bank, letter of credit issued by a commercial bank, surety bond callable on demand issued by a surety or insurance company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner or any combination thereof. Interested bidders are requested to present personally or through their authorized representatives their proposals. Letters of authority to represent and sign documents must be properly notarized.

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to annul the bidding process anytime prior to the award of contract, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the RITM's action.

(Sgd.) SALVACION R. GATCHALIAN, M.D.
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 3 & 10, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit No. 12
Cotabato City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit No. 12 (DA-RFU 12) invites interested parties to pre-qualify and bid for the following:

DESCRIPTION AND SPECIFICATIONS OF FARM EQUIPMENTS AND FACILITIES

I WAREHOUSE
- Model FLGC II
  - Warehouse 12m x 20m
    Inclusive of processing area (8m x 12m) and storage area (12m x 12m)
  - Office space (3m x 4m)
  - Concrete Drying Pavement (2 x 6m x 20m)
- Design and Detailed Estimates at NAFC Office

II. SOLAR DRYER
- Has an area of 125m x 20m = 2500 sq.m. and 4" thickness
- Concrete mixture - class B (1:2.5:5.5)
- With re-bar 9mm @ 50cm o.c. spacing

III. BOOMSPRAYER
- 6 - M length
- Folding type
- One (1) cu.m. tank capacity

IV. MECHANICAL PLANTER WITH FERTILIZER APPLICATOR
- Four (4) rows
- Adjustable row spacing
- Individual seed hopper
- Two (2) fertilizer hopper

V. MECHANICAL DRYER
- a. Classification - Batch, re circulating
- b. Bin Type - Vertical
- c. Capacity - Eight (8) tons
- d. Heating System - Direct fire
- e. Burning System - Spray gun
- f. Fuel - Kerosene
- g. Fan Type - Tube axial
- h. Handling System - Mechanical bucket elevator
- i. Control System - Fully automatic
- j. Indirect aspirator and grain spreading

VI. FOUR (4) ROWS CULTIVATOR

VII. 75HP TRACTORS WITH ATTACHMENTS
- Four (4) wheel drive
- Fully hydraulic power steering
- Water Cooling pressurized with water pump radiator
- PTO type, rear positioned, independent
- PTO speed, 540 - 1000 rpm
- Differential lock - Hydro-mechanically operated
- With the following attachments:
  - a. DISC PLOW
    - Four (4) blades
    - 660 mm disc diameter
  - b. DISC HARROW
    - Eighteen (18) blades
    - 560 mm Disc diameter
  - c. TAILER
    - Pneumatic type with spring and shock absorber support

VIII. CHISELPLOW
- Nine (9) shanks

IX. 135HP TRACTORS WITH ACCESSORIES 4 WD

X. FORWARD TRUCKHAULER
- Ten (10) tons capacity
- Six (6) wheelers
- Aluminum siding, drop-type
- 900A - A-Ply tire

XI. ELF TRUCKHAULER
- With front drive
- Six (6) wheelers
- Siding: Drop-Type

XII. MINI FEEDMILL
- 1 - Hammer mill - 1 ton/hr. capacity
- 1 - Micro-mixer - 100 kg. - per batch capacity
- 1 - Mix - 1 ton per batch capacity
- 1 - Pelletizing machine - 1 ton/hr. capacity
- 1 - Bagger / Sewing machine
- 1 - Weighing Scale : Flat - bed type
- 2 - Weighing Scale 50 kg. Capacity

XIII. MECHANICAL CORN SHELLER
- Minimum Shelling Recovery - 97%
- Minimum Shelling Efficiency - 99.5%
- Minimum Purity - 98%
- DB (a) Noise Level Maximum - 100%
- Closed, Single Cylinder
- Peg Teeth
- HP Power Engine

Interested parties must submit to the BAC Secretariat c/o Property and Supply Unit, DA-RFU 12, Cotabato City or at the DA Central Office, Legal Service, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than November 18, 2002 the following documents:

1. Letter of Intent;
2. Clear Photocopies of DTI or SEC Registration;
3. Updated Mayor's Permit;
4. VAT/NON VAT Registration;
5. ITR duly stamped by the BIR;
6. Audited Financial Report for 2 recent years; and
7. Documentary evidence showing that they have a service center in Region 12

Bring original for authentication of the xerox copies.

Tender documents may be obtained for a minimal fee of P250.00 from the BAC Secretariat c/o Property and Supply Unit, DA-RFU 12 Cotabato City or at the DA Central Office, Legal Service, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, after submission of the required pre-qualification documents stated above.

A pre-bid conference will be held on November 20, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. at the Conference Room, Department of Agriculture, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. All proposals must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) on November 25, 2002 at 8:30 a.m., DA Koronadal, South Cotabato, at which time and date, the bids will be opened in the presence of all qualified bidders or their duly authorized representatives.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bidders Bond equivalent to 2.5% of the total budget for the Contract either in Cash, Manager Check or GSIS bid bond.

The Department of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any or all bids or part thereof, waive any required formality therein, accept proposals deemed advantageous to the government and assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify any bidder for expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EDUARDO E. GARCIA
Chairman
Special Bids and Awards Committee
Per Special Order No. 474
Series of 2002

(PDI--Nov. 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

"Sharing with you the glory, the joy, the miracle of this holy season. Merry Christmas!"

On **December 25, 2002, INQUIRER Classifieds** will accommodate personal holiday greetings and messages. Avail of this special offer at a discounted rate of **P50 per line and P150 per column centimeter for box ads.**

For more information, visit or call any Inquirer branch. Prices are VAT exclusive.

Deadline of ad placement: **December 20, 2002**

SAMPLE ADS

Jaymie,
A warm Christmas wish to remind you just how much you're cherished through the year. Merry Christmas!
Jet

size: 1 col x 4 cm
cost: P660 vat incl.

Merry Christmas Ernie! God bless you and your family – Sheryl

size: 3 lines
cost: P165 vat incl.

Happy Holidays AJI May God bless you always. – Maxine

size: 2 lines
cost: P110 vat incl.

MAKATI (MAIN):
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☎ 897-8425 (Direct)
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MESSAGEBOARD

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

For Criminal Case No. 0500326-38

PASCUAL CHUA GO

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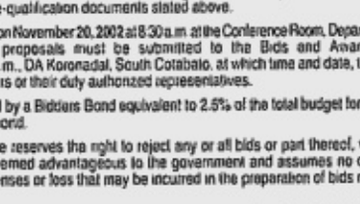

Monetary reward will be given to anyone who could provide information leading to the arrest of **PASCUAL CHUA GO** whose picture appears above. Please call Pinera, Marcella, Romero and Associates. Tel. No. 633-8588 and 633-9006.

(PDI -- Nov. 3, 2002)

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"...for it is in pardoning that we are pardoned and in dying that we are born to eternal life."

EPIFANIA "FANNIE" V. YAP

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 1, 2002 at the age of 70.

Her loving husband **Johnnie**; children **Bes** & **Bettina**, **Mon** & **Nonie**, **Ruby** & **Manny Limjap**, **John David** (†); grandchildren **Miel**, **Luis**, **Justin**, **Carmela**, **Christina**, **Monica**, **Benjamin** & **Cameron**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Family Parish Church, K-7th corner K-I Street, Kamias Road, Quezon City.

Cremation services will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2002, 1:00 PM at the Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina City after the 10:30 a.m. Memorial Mass at Holy Family Parish.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."
Psalm 23:4

Danila Tamayo y Dalangey

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 29, 2002 at the age of 55.

Her loving husband **Esteban**; children **Sam**, **Jane**, **Jimema** and **Jojo**; children-in-law **Allan** and **Jun**; grandchildren **Alyana** and **Francy**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Areflor Funeral Homes, J.P. Rizal Ext., West Rembo, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches after the Holy Mass at the mentioned funeral home.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God..."
Psalm 28:7

SANTIAGO BALAURO DALANGEY

Died in the Grace of our Lord on October 27, 2002 at the age of 79.

His remains lie in state at their residence in Sapang Palay, San Jose, Del Monte, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Tuesday, November 5, 2002 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park in Novaliches after the celebration of church service.

We, the family of the late
REV. DR. ADELFA (BABETTE) C. MALABAYABAS, F.C.T.S.
Evangelist and Lecturer
Faith Theological Seminary
Sango – Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria.

Wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, offered prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites and helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

ATTY. MARGARITO F. DELA CRUZ, SR.

of Tacloban City, Leyte
Regional Auditor of Philippine Coconut Authority (Ret.)

Peacefully joined the Lord on October 28, 2002 at age of 89.

His loving wife **CONCEPCION HILVANO**; children **ANITA & DAVID**, **MARGARITO, JR. & REBECCA**, **ESTEFANO & MANOLO**, **VIVIEN** (†); **CHRISTOPHER & MELINDA**; **JENNIFER & CARLOS**; **MICHAEL** (†); grandchildren **CHRISTINE**, **MARTY & MAEONE**, **AGNES**; **SAMANTHA**; **CRISELLE**, **CHRISLYN**, **CHRISMAE**, **MARCON**, **GINO & ESTAN**; **CHARLEY**, **CASEY**, **CODEI & CARLITOS** and great grandchild, **MIGZ**; sisters, nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at THE DELA CRUZ RESIDENCE at 173 JARO DRIVE, ANIBONG, TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE.

He will be interred on November 6, 2002 at the Leyte Memorial Cemetery, Tigbao Diit, Tacloban City after the ten o'clock a.m. Mass at the St. Jude Parish, PHHC, Tacloban City.

EDUARDO "Eddie" P. DECENA

14 Jan. 1926 - 01 Nov. 2002

Peacefully joined his Creator and his late wife Nena Aragon on 01 November 2002.

We, his love ones **Louie & Grace Decena — Mannie**, **Sito**, **Edong**, **Paolo**, **Angelo** and **Barbara**; **Mari & Jun Jose — Chudong** and **Deodita**; **Tiny Decena**; **Chit Decena — Victor & Chiqui** and **Bobbie**, **BJ**, **Bunny**, **Mikki** and **Angelica**; **Tryll & Rey Makalintal — Carlo** and **Radough**, wish to invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayer for his soul. His body lies in state at Chapel II, St. Alphonsus Mary de Ligouri Parish, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila North Cemetery on Tuesday, 05 November 2002, after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

Amada Duldulao Vda. de Lagasca

Teacher of 41 years of Laoag City

Joined her Creator on October 29, 2002 at the age of 100.

Beloved wife of **Dr. Procopio R. Lagasca** (†) and mother of **Teodulena** (†). Her nephews and nieces, grandchildren and great grandchildren (**Duldulao** and **Juan Families**) request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers. Wake is at 63 A.G. Tupaz Street, Laoag City. Interment is on Monday, November 4, 2002 at 8:30 AM.

"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."
2 Corinthians 5:4-5

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People, Events & Products

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Pizza Hut celebrates 100 restaurants in RP with a bang

BIG NAMES, giant pizzas and countless customers made the celebration of Pizza Hut's 100th restaurant a momentous event.

The opening of the 100th Pizza Hut restaurant, which has made its home in Luisita Center in Hacienda Luisita, Tarlac City, was made extra special by the arrival of the Cojuangco family, whose clan has called Hacienda Luisita home for more than four decades.

Indeed, it was virtually a family reunion as brothers Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Pedro Cojuangco, along with their families, caught up with Tarlac Rep. Noynoy Aquino and award-winning TV show host/celebrity Kris Aquino.

The Cojuangcos were joined by Tarlac Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Philippine Pizza Inc. officials, the franchise owner and operator of Pizza Hut in the Philippines, led by Judy Araneta-Roxas and Lars Peterson. From Yum Brands (Asia Pacific) came managing director Art Rautio and Ivan Koo.

Of course, what's a Pizza Hut celebration without the presence of its main man Diether Ocampo, who gamely—and tirelessly—posed with fans and signed autographs. Later that day, Diether, energized by the overwhelming response of the crowd, sang at least six songs with his band Blow to the shrieking delight of the females.

Pizzas, of course, overflowed with a giant Pizza Hut cutting, which capped the day's ceremonies. The guests, including the Bb. Pilipinas beauties, cheerfully took Pizza Hut's dare to eat the whole pizza they sliced from the giant pizza.

Despite the heat, Tarlaquenos flocked to Pizza Hut and joined the festivities that included a motorcade and a mini-concert in the afternoon where Diether sang and ABS-CBN talents Angelika Panganiban and Carlo Aquino proved to be the next stars as fans screamed for more songs from them.

The motorcade was again headlined by Diether who didn't want to pass up the chance to drive a black vintage Corvette. Members of the Vintage Car Club of the Philippines had lent its classic cars to Pizza Hut to make another unique announcement event of Pizza Hut's 100th restaurant opening. Bb. Pilipinas models, led by present Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Karen Loren Agustin, rode on the top-down cars.

At 3 p.m., Pizza Hut Tarlas formally opened its doors to the public. Several hours later, there was still a waiting line where Taralquenos patiently waited their turn to be among the first in the city to take a bite out of Pizza Hut's world-famous pizzas.

The opening of the 100th store is, no doubt, a vote of confidence of Pizza Hut for the Philippine economy. The 100 stores are its commitment to growth and expansion not just in cities like Manila or Cebu but in provincial areas like Cagayan de Oro, Bulacan, Davao and Pampanga, where Pizza Hut has received such a warm and enthusiastic response.

The 100th Pizza Hut restaurant in the Philippines brings the total Pizza Hut restaurants worldwide to 12,198 restaurants.

MENDOZA joins the Cojuangco and Aquino men Jose Cojuangco Jr., Rep. Noynoy Aquino and Pedro Cojuangco.

FOR A giant pizza, only the largest slices will do, according to (from left) Mendoza, Pedro Cojuangco, Rep. Noynoy Aquino, Diether Ocampo, Judy Araneta-Roxas, Kris Aquino, Bb. Pilipinas 1st runner-up Margaret Ann Bayot, Jose Cojuangco Jr., and Bb Pilipinas-Universe 2002 Karen Loren Agustin.

FOR LUCK, Tarlac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Rep. Noynoy Aquino, Kris Aquino and Diether Ocampo throw coins and candles at the restaurant.

Ways of achieving good health featured at int'l organic show

GOOD health can be achieved in many different ways, and these are being presented in the 3rd Health and Organic Show 2002 ongoing until Nov. 4 at the SM Megatrade Hall, 5th floor SM Megamall, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

With the theme "Your Health, Your Wealth", the show is not just an international exhibit, but also a learning experience for the general public. The three-day event showcases the widest range of health, wellness and beauty products and services by over 75 companies and includes food and drinks, tools and equipment, organically produced and prepared items, and free lectures and seminars, among others.

The free seminars conducted by leading medical specialists tackles asthma on children, arthritis and osteoporosis, lifestyle medicine for diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, new dimensions in blood pressure control, smoking cessation program, therapeutic massage, and importance of vitamin supplementation.

The show also offers business opportunity seminars, product launching and presentations, free demonstrations on health exercises, free admission to aeroboxing and aerobic marathon competition, and free consultations/clinics by practitioners in iridology, reflexology, and facial services, among others.

Likewise, health companies discuss their latest products and services such as Charantia by Herbcare Corp., magnetic field therapy by Taytan International, Chinese herbs for cancer treatment by Green & Gold International, and strengthening the immune system by Herbs & Nature, among others.

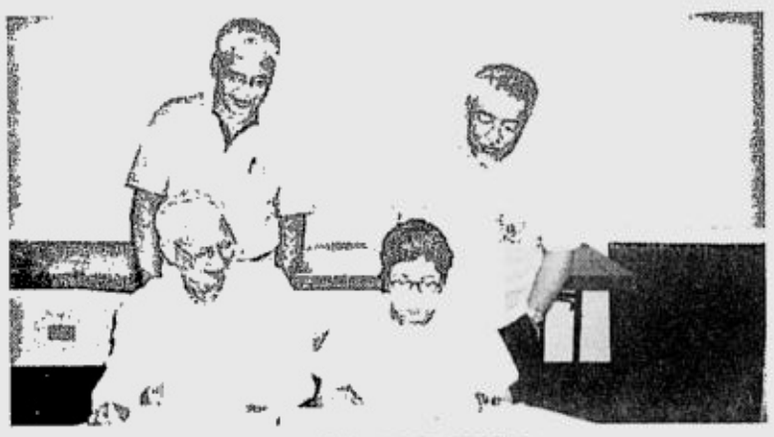
There are also cooking demonstrations on health foods by Inosphil/CMC Ventures and Charter Association/Manila Adventist Medical Center, and on herb applications by Elysian Crops and Crafts.

Other information can be obtained from event manager Fiera de Manila (899-6893, 896-0637, 896-0639, e-mail fiera@info.com.ph, and website www.fmi.com.ph).

Sponsored by Herbcare Corporation, Gano Excel Phils. Inc., Health Today, Softrigger Interactive, Web Phils., 702 DZAS and 103.5 Kute FM, the show also features a physical exercise session by Tina Juan of Channel 23's "In Fitness and In Health" program.

EVER-GOTESCO SPONSORS PANA CONFAB

Ever-Gotesco Malls will be one of the sponsors of the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana) biennial convention dubbed 'Strat Ur Stuff' (Strategic Marketing Summit) at the Manila Hotel from Nov. 20 to 22. Shown during the contract signing are (seated from left) Pana executive director Dr. Nonie S. Azarcon, Ever-Gotesco Malls marketing communications services division manager Noemi Sta. Maria, and Pana president Gigi B. Rodriguez. Standing, from left, are Pana directors Jojo Samson, Atoy Babasa, Susie Achacoso-Cruz, Jun Alcantara and Beth Flores.



DTI, DA SUPPORT RP FOOD EXPO

The Department of Trade and Industry-Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development (DTI-BSMed), through its director Rhodora Leano (seated, right), the Department of Agriculture through its Chief of Marketing Services Jose Manto (standing left), express support to the 2nd Philippine Food Expo slated from Jan. 29 to Feb. 3, 2003 at the SM Megatrade Halls.

The expo is organized by the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization Inc. (Philfoodex), the biggest and most-recognized industry association in the country, represented by its president Jesus T. Tanchanco Sr. (seated left) and chair Edward David (standing right). For inquiries, the secretariat may be reached at 436-3556, 436-3557, or 925-3519.

Bits Clips

Programming contest set

THE 27th Annual Intercollegiate Programming Contest by the Association for Computing Machineries (ACM) will be held in Manila for the first time in November. Manila brings together competing teams from the Asian region for the chance to be one of 60 teams to advance to the World Finals in March 2003 in Hollywood, California. The ACM ICPC is considered the Olympics of computer programming. In the 26th edition held in Honolulu, Hawaii, it had 3,082 teams representing over 1,300 universities in 67 countries. This year, the ACM has chosen the University of Asia and the Pacific Institute of IT Studies as regional host. The UAP solicits the participation of all universities in the country to join the competition. For particulars, call UAP's Susette Buenafe at 633-3967/634-2806, or e-mail asmmanila@uap.edu.ph.

Pantene's great prizes

WORLD-renowned hair care expert Pantene Pro-V now brings its Dare to Shine campaign to a new level with a nationwide raffle promo. Ongoing until November is It's Your Time to Shine, a raffle promo that will bring a radiant shine on the faces of three lucky Pantene Pro-V Shampoo and Conditioner users with grand prizes of P1 million in cash, a house-and-lot package worth P500,000 and an exquisite diamond set from Venice Jewellers, also worth P500,000. To join, simply enclose three Pantene shampoo sachets and three Pantene conditioner sachets, or one 200ml or 400ml Pantene Pro-V Shampoo or Conditioner bottle inside an envelope bearing the sender's complete name, address, telephone number and signature. Drop entries at participating outlets nationwide, or mail to Promo Dimensions Inc., 122 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City. The grand draw will be on Nov. 16 at "Eat Bulaga". Weekly draws will also be held in "Eat Bulaga".

Catering seminar set

CATERERS and restaurateurs planning to start or manage a catering business are invited by ProActive Center for Training (PACT) to its Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop from Nov. 4 to 13, 1 to 5 p.m. at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, Quezon City. Reservations are accepted at 787-6370 or 0919-5500601, or e-mail pactserv@yahoo.com. Seminar fee is P4,500 per participant, inclusive of field trips to food and equipment suppliers and a restaurant visit, manual and handouts, snacks, certificate of completion, and workshop materials and equipment. Free shuttle service from SM Megamall to the venue, and back, will be provided. The training features lectures and hands-on workshops on legal requirements, planning the menu, equipment and staffing, cost control, room arrangements, napkin folding and table skirting.

COUNTRY BANKERS, MEDICARD SIGN MOA

Two all-Filipino giant companies, Country Bankers Life Insurance Corp. and MediCard Philippines Inc. signed Sept. 27 a memorandum of agreement introducing the MPI Health Program intended to address the high demand on health care needs and financial protection low and middle-income earners. MediCard Philippines president Dr. Nicanor D. Montoya (in black suit), EVP Luis S. Montoya (left), Country Bankers Life Insurance president Ernesto R. Desiderio Villareal Jr (right), and VP for marketing Renato VF Gonzales (2nd from left) are shown signing the MOA. Looking on are officers of MediCard (VisMin area) Vic and Cecilie Echegoyen and Country Banker's director Juliana D. Villareal, VP Dolores R. Mari, supervisor Tony Flores and manager Millicent Cadorniga.

Product Files

Kare Kare made easy

PREPARING this popular Filipino recipe has become simpler and less tedious with Mama Sita's Peanut Sauce Mix—an all-natural combination of toasted peanuts, rice and annatto (atsuete) that has the authentic and distinctive flavor of Kare Kare.

Mama Sita's Peanut Sauce Mix does away with the painstaking process of grinding the peanuts to brewing the sauce while remaining true to its original taste. Thus, Kare Kare, which is a staple in most celebrations, can be enjoyed even during ordinary household meal gatherings.

More importantly, Mama Sita's Peanut Sauce Mix has been proven to be aflatoxin-free, therefore safe and healthful. Marigold Commodities Corp., makers of Mama Sita's products, is the first in the country to adopt a process that detects aflatoxin-contaminated peanuts.

Available in 57g and 100g packets, Mama Sita's Peanut Sauce Mix, as in all Mama Sita's mixes and sauces, are all-natural and preservative-free.

Money seminar set

LIFE-ENHANCE coach Dero Pedero conducts "Money, Money! Secret Principles of Money and Prosperity," an enlightening, entertaining and inspiring seminar that reveals eye-opening money secrets and prosperity principles that will help unlock the door to wealth and financial success.

"We toil throughout life for money yet very few of us really comprehend its basic reality. It is weird that we are actually enslaved by something we do not even understand. When asked to think of money, we envision paper bills, coins and credit cards yet these are nothing but paper, metal and plastic without the power we assign to them. Understanding money's metaphysical and hidden properties helps you attract more of it into your life," declares Pedero.

The seminar is based on the principle that the more you know about money, the easier and faster you can get rich. To be discussed in the course are the definition of money, the metaphysics of money, common money myths and money truths, the 7 secrets to wealth, the universal principles of making money, the prosperous way to wealth & riches, the secret personality of money, the 7 essentials of wealth building, the 10 steps to wealth building, how to create passive income, the biggest money secret of all, plus many more.

The seminar will be held on Wednesday, November 6 at 6 p.m. on the roof deck of the Buendia Tower, 501 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., between Taft and Bautista. Ask about their early bird promo and avail of the offered discount. For more information and schedules of the "Money, Money!" and Pedero's ongoing "Make Your Impossible Dreams Come True!" seminars, e-mail DeroSeminar@yahoo.com or text/call 0920-4053233.

Action challenge on AXN

AXN, the only action-adventure channel in Asia, brings the Samsung AXN challenge to Manila, Nov. 9.

Some of the country's show biz stars take to the streets and sweat it out alongside the country's toughest athletes.

Once considered an alternative sport, adventure racing is now enjoying mainstream acceptance and celebrities are getting into the trend, too.

TV personalities like Dyan Castillejo, Paolo Abrera and Illac Diaz have risen to the challenge and will test their mettle in the sports event.

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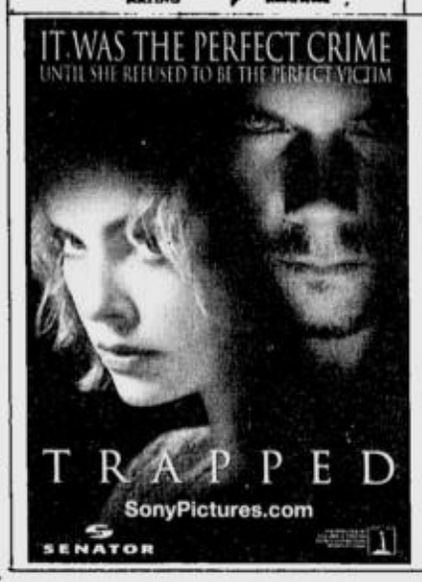

Entertaining Kidnap Thriller

Professional kidnappers Joe and Cheryl Hickey (Kevin Bacon, *HOLLOW MAN* and Courtney Love, *PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT*) think they have mastered a foolproof plan to extort money from wealthy families.

They kidnap the child of rich parents, hold the kid for 24 hours, keeping the mother under Joe's control while Cheryl gets the ransom from the father, who is on a trip.

But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.

The Action & Suspense begin NOV. 6!

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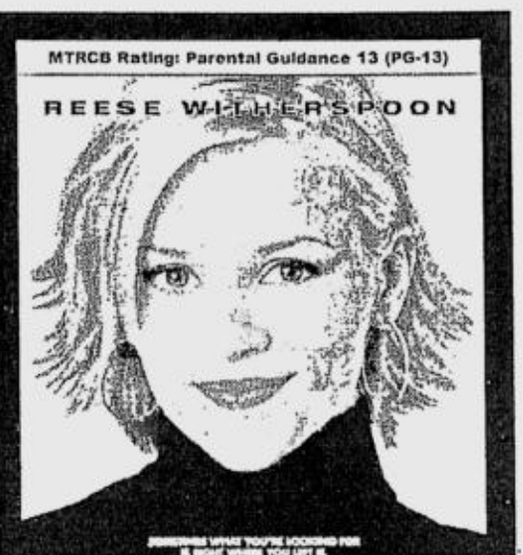

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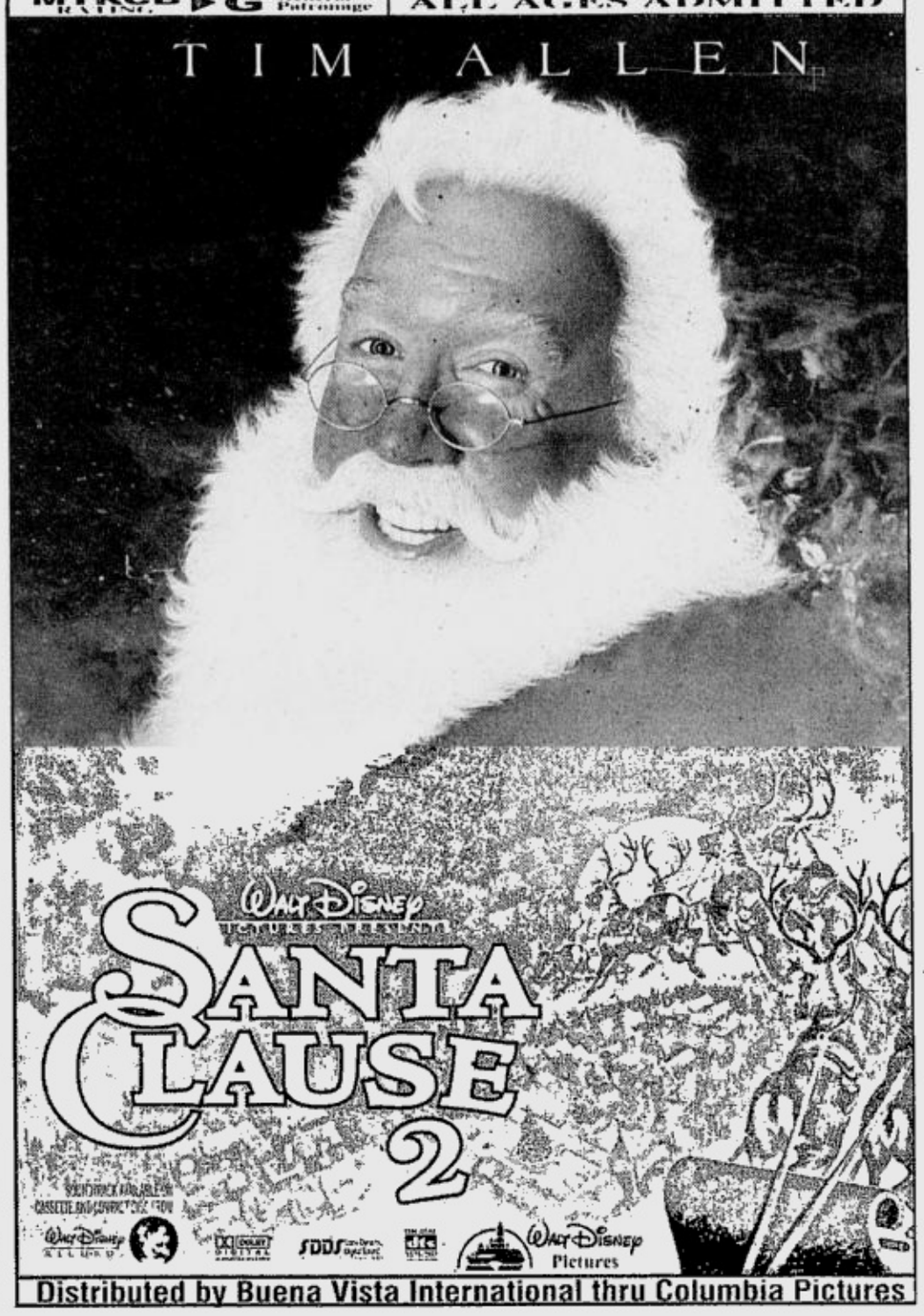

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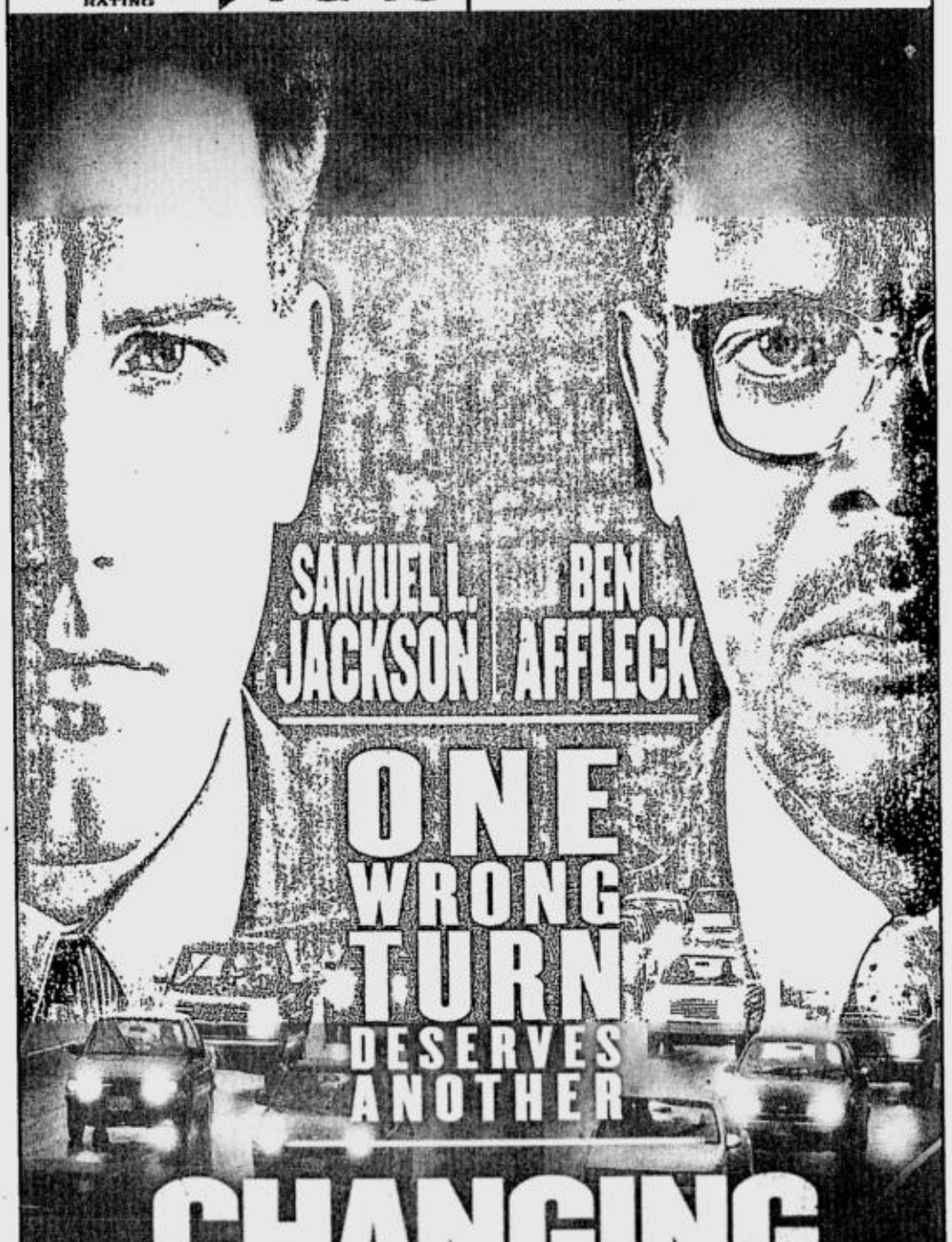

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SWEET HOME ALABAMA	RED DRAGON 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF	SWEET HOME ALABAMA 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	SWEET HOME ALABAMA GHOST SHIP
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			RED DRAGON 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30	

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October 31, 10 pm, Greenbelt Park
Green Lounge Halloween Ball
Alabang
October 30, 1 - 4 pm
Mallwide Trick or Treat for Kids
October 31, 6 pm, Town Plaza
Halloween Party featuring Southborder
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October 27, 1 - 5 pm, Activity Center
Trick or Treat for Kids
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Concert performance training

THE CENTER for Pop Music Philippines, the country's first and largest school in pop singing, will launch a new training course for singing enthusiasts called "Concert Artists Training," which will start Nov. 6 in all branches.

Butch Albarracin, founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, Inc., said the training program will become a center for singing talents where recording companies and talent managers can scout for future artists.

Interested individuals may join the auditions at the Center for Pop Music Philippines head office at 73 Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, Quezon City, with tel. nos. 727-5293 or 721-0714 or 411-7310.

Auditions will be conducted in Center for Pop Music branches in Makati (891-6124), Parañaque (820-4326), Las Piñas (874-5324), Marikina (933-0909), Roces Avenue, Quezon City (372-1729), Lagro, Novaliches (461-3062), San Pedro, Laguna (869-6702), Dasmariñas, Cavite (413-3439) and Cebu City (032-234-1121).

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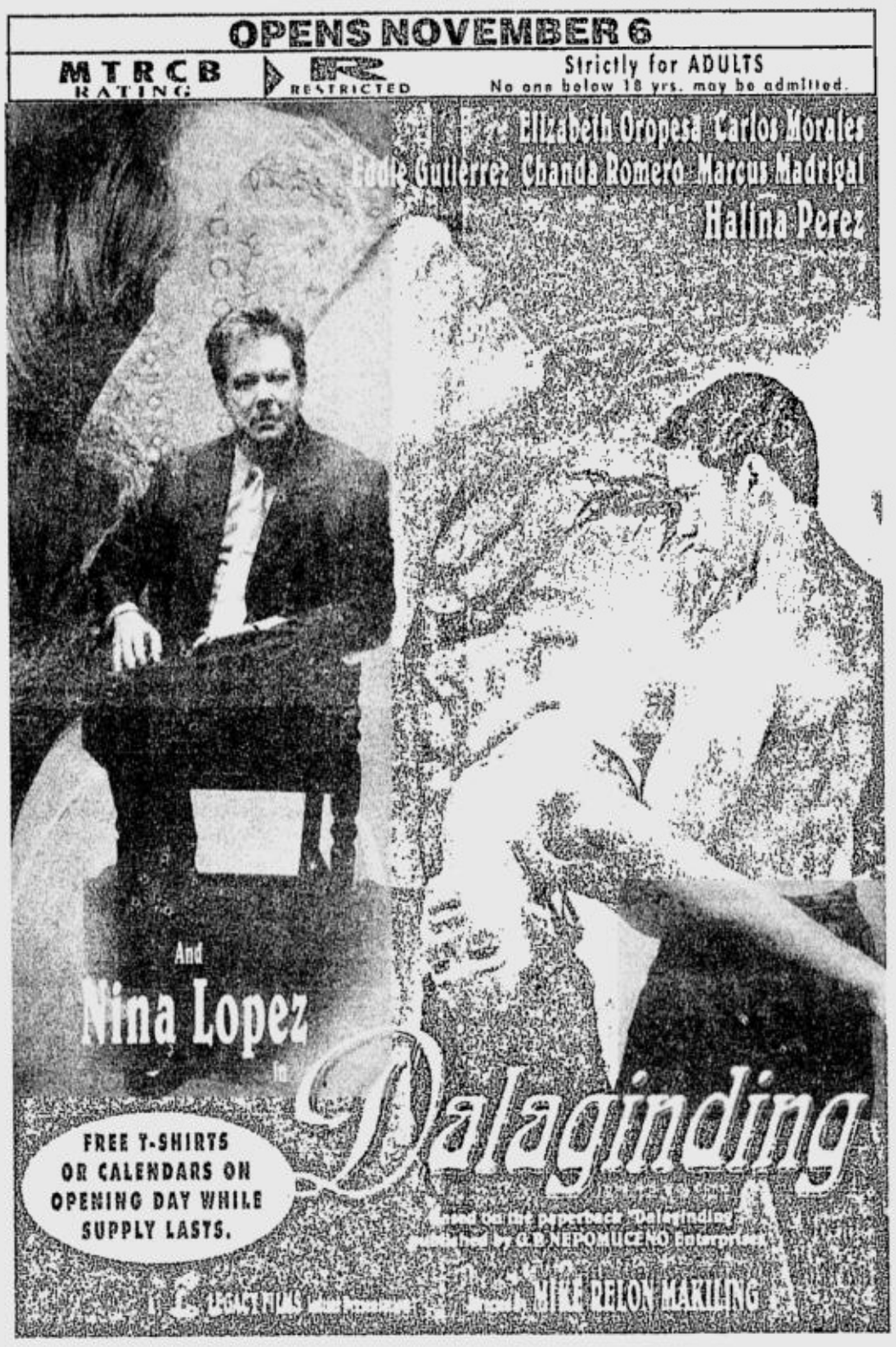

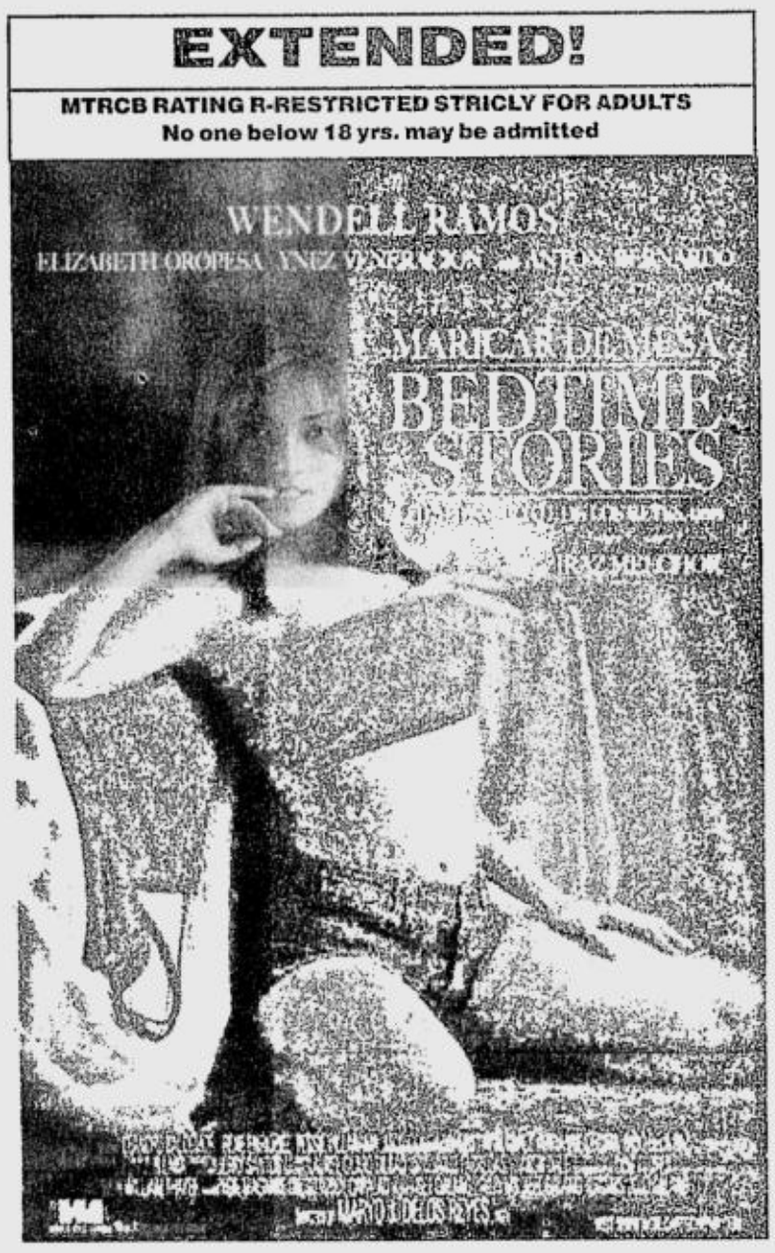

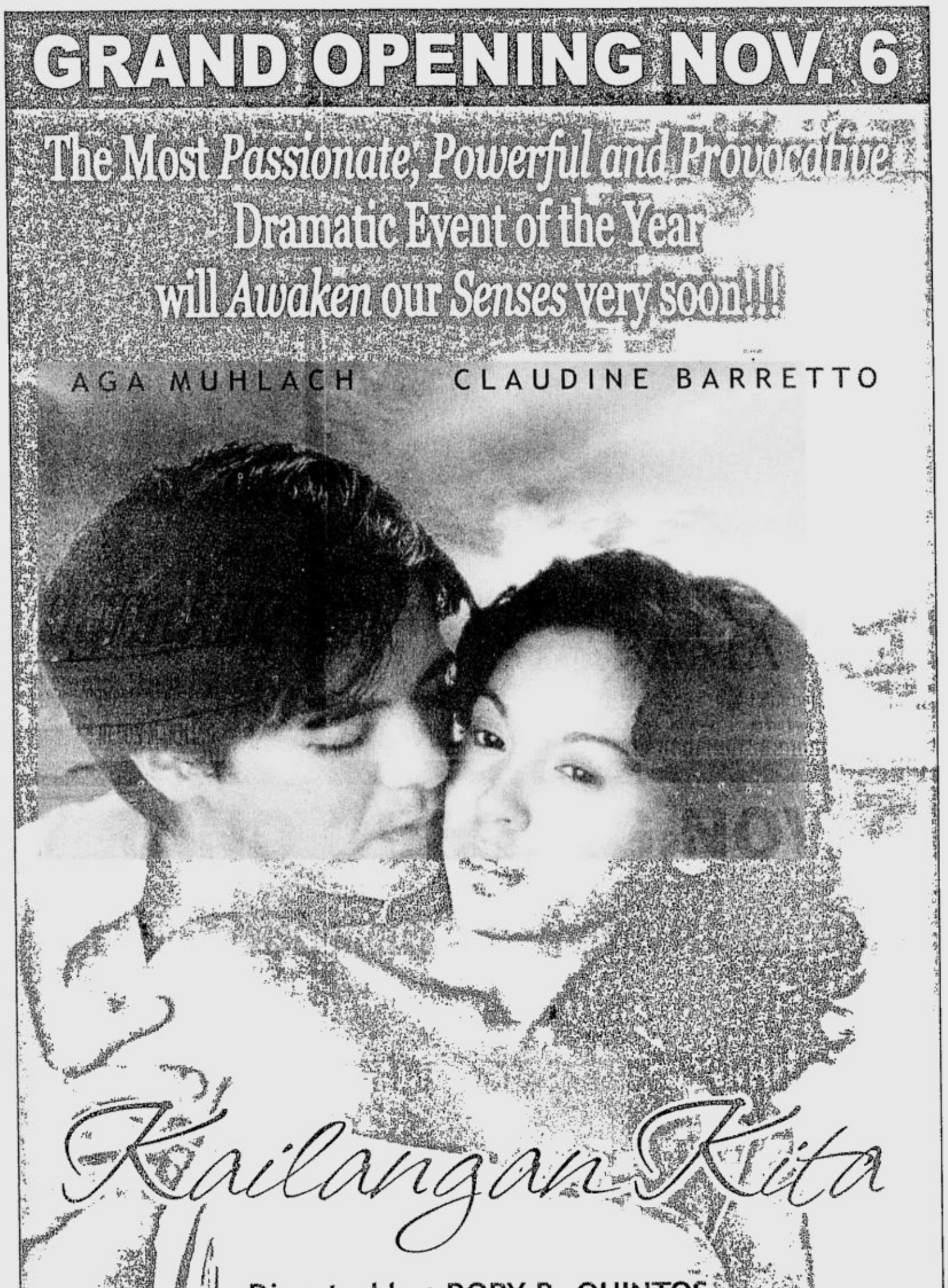

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2002
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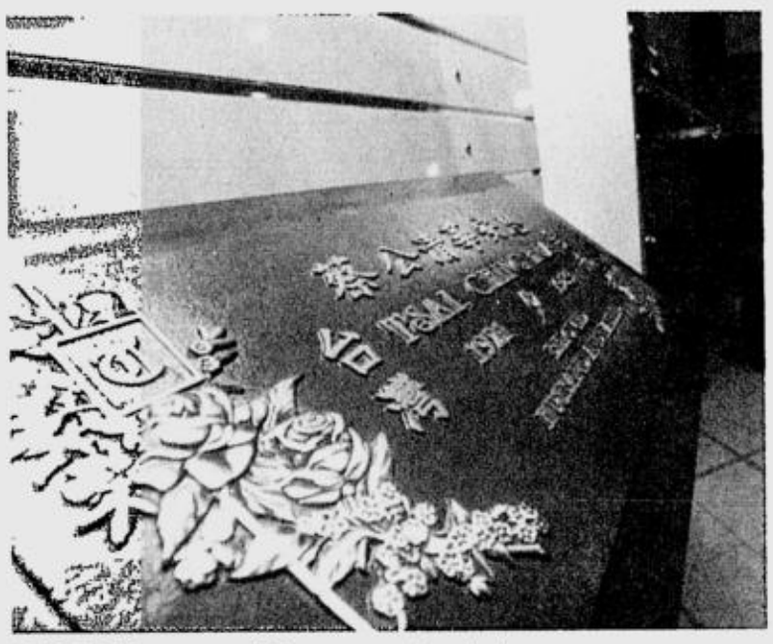
SundayLIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Park for the dead and the living



CHOOSE from over 150 grave marker designs.

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Dennis Sabangan

LIKE birds locked inside cages, we are prisoners of our own mortality. We may grieve for the loss of a loved one and reminisce the lives of those long gone, but our thoughts involuntarily ponder on our own fleeting moment in this world. But no matter the loss, no matter how exquisite the pain, life has to move on.

The new, sprawling 76-ha manicured greens of the Heritage Memorial Park (tels. 845-2334 to 38) on Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, provides the necessary solemnity to interment rites while offering services to those left behind to carry on with their lives.

The park is maintained much like a golf course under the Perpetual Trust Fund, which exists solely for the upkeep and enhancement of the park.

The Heritage seeks to provide families a new experience by offering activities, such as fishing and kite flying, every time they visit their dead.

Fishing and jogging around the brick-layered jogging lanes of the memorial park may sound odd, but Raquel Mendoza, senior manager of the Heritage Memorial Park, says the activities serve a special purpose.

"We want families to come here more often to visit their loved ones and, at the same time, have fun inside the park," she says. Indeed, what perfect time is there to tie stronger family bonds?

No fishing rods? Not to worry. A shop inside the park sells them, baits included. At one end of the park is a long man-made lagoon teeming with *tilapia, hito* (catfish) and *dalag* (mudfish). Feeding on thick moss beneath its clean water, the fish supply is so abundant that employees are occasionally asked to go fishing to control the population. And, yes, visitors do get to take home the day's catch.

During visitations, picnics are allowed at the gravesite, and tents, tables and chairs can be rented at a minimal fee. "It used to be difficult for families to invite the younger generation to visit memorial parks because it's *malungkot* and boring, but since we started offering these services, children always have a grand time," she says.

While the idea of jogging inside a cemetery might send goose bumps to even the most diehard among health buffs, the peaceful scenery of gentle, rolling hills, the chirping birds and the crisp, clean air are enough to keep thoughts of ghosts jogging beside them at bay. (Kites, by the way, are also available at the shop, and can be flown at a designated place.)

Function rooms

The park also has function rooms for the different needs of the family. There are transaction rooms that allow the bereaved some privacy while going over the crucial task of making decisions on funeral services.

A kid's room is located a spitting distance away, complete with TV, toys, books. "They can play and watch videos while parents transact business," Mendoza says.

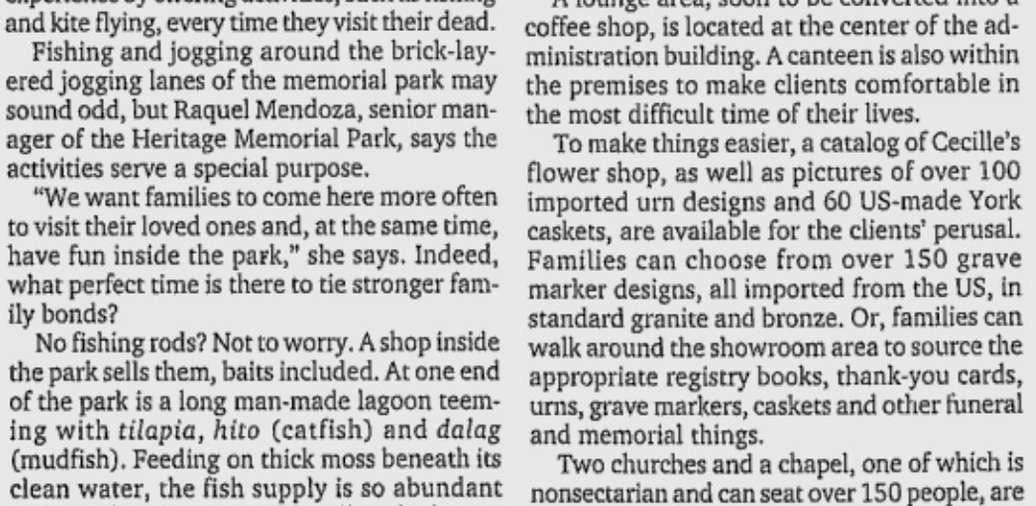
A lounge area, soon to be converted into a coffee shop, is located at the center of the administration building. A canteen is also within the premises to make clients comfortable in the most difficult time of their lives.

To make things easier, a catalog of Cecille's flower shop, as well as pictures of over 100 imported urn designs and 60 US-made York caskets, are available for the clients' perusal. Families can choose from over 150 grave marker designs, all imported from the US, in standard granite and bronze. Or, families can walk around the showroom area to source the appropriate registry books, thank-you cards, urns, grave markers, caskets and other funeral and memorial things.

Two churches and a chapel, one of which is nonsectarian and can seat over 150 people, are available for religious services. For those who like to veer away from the traditional hearse, they can opt for a horse-drawn carriage.

PARK/ p.C2

Hardly funereal, the Heritage Memorial Park provides family activities to make the experience of visiting the dead less oppressive



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I Wanna Get Close / Freestyle
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Life Goes On / Leann Rimes
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Keyword: **twisted**

A Walk To Remember - OST
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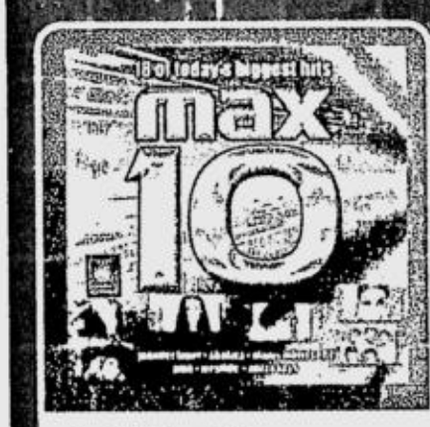
Forty Licks / Rolling Stones
(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction
Keyword: **satisfaction**



Max 10 / Various Artists
Underneath Your Clothes by Shakira
Keyword: **urclothes**

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Top 25 Albums of the Week
TOWER RECORDS · VIDEO · BOOKS
MI music

1	**Room For Squares** John Mayer	10	**Forty Licks** Rolling Stones keyword: *satisfaction*	19	**Live In Paris** Diana Krall keyword: *lookfluv*
2	**You Had Me At Hello** Various Artists keyword: *lastchance*	11	**Elvis 30 #1 Hits** Elvis Presley keyword: *burninglove*	20	**Voyage 2** Various Artists keyword: *return2innocence*
3	**Let Go** Avril Lavigne	12	**Simply The Best 60's** Various Artists	21	**I Wanna Get Close** Freestyle keyword: *getclose*
4	**Chasing Time** Martin Nievera	13	**Live Series** Various Artists	22	**Ono Lisa Best 1997-2001** Lisa Ono
5	**Josh Groban** Josh Groban	14	**A Walk To Remember -OST** keyword: *gonnabluv*	23	**Max 10** Various Artists keyword: *urclothes*
6	**Nellyville** Nelly	15	**Romance** Frank Sinatra	24	**Jazz Café Series: Latte** Various Artists
7	**Chicago Story: Complete Greatest Hits** Chicago	16	**Paradise** Kenny G	25	**Life Goes On** Leann Rimes keyword: *twisted*
8	**Chillout Project** Various Artists	17	**Jazz Café Series: Cappuccino** Various Artists		
9	**Come Away With Me** Norah Jones	18	**Barenaked** Jennifer Love Hewitt		

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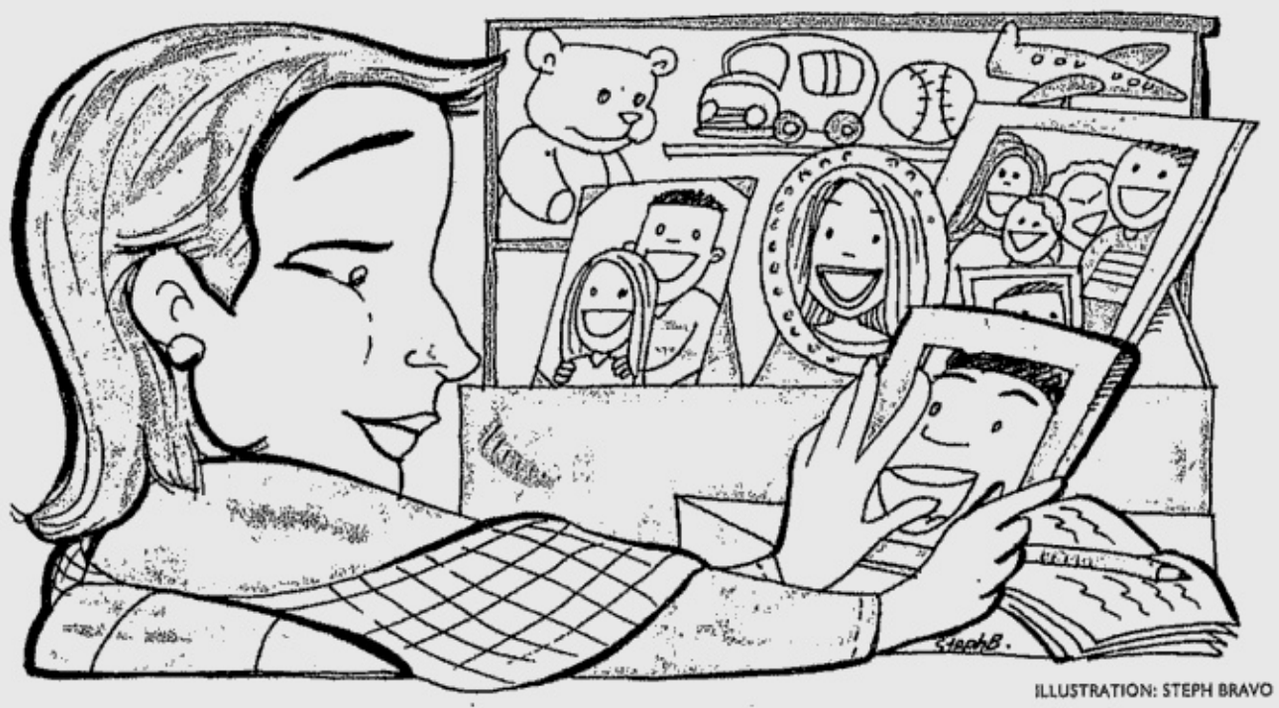


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

'I grieve because of lost dreams and relationships that will never be'

Coping with a loss

By Juliana N. Gamilla
Contributor

IT has been three years now since I have lost my 26-year-old son ("Jhe" or "Jheric" to his siblings and relatives, "John" to his friends) due to a severe asthma attack. Three months before his death, my boy was making plans for his wedding to be held on the 10th or 20th of October 2000. With his passing, I also lost a daughter-in-law and at least four grandchildren (maybe two boys and two girls).

So, I grieve because of lost dreams and relationships that will never be and Nov. 2, 1999 is the saddest day of my life.

My son's death was so sudden—I had no inkling that he would be gone that night. He was not even sick and he did not show any signs of an asthma episode. He even went shopping with his girlfriend in Greenhills on the afternoon of the fateful day.

I blamed myself for losing him. Did I fail to notice that something was wrong with him? I blamed God that, despite my prayers (which I started when I conceived my eldest daughter in June 1971) for good health and protection of my children, He still allowed death to prevail. I was so devastated by the loss because my son was so young.

Since that day in November, I knew I could never be truly happy again because there was one less member in my family.

Today, I still mourn, but somehow the pain has lessened. So I'd like to share with those who also suffered the loss of a loved one what I did and still do to cope with my pain, hurt and grief.

1. I always express and never suppress my feelings. I cry whenever I feel like it and I smile/laugh whenever I am happy (although not really that happy).

2. I console myself with the thought that I still have two daughters, my mother, my husband, relatives and friends, who need my love and attention.

3. I write about my son. I've composed eight poems about his life and dreams, the words coming from my heart.

4. I record in a diary all my dreams about my son especially when, in my dreams, I am able to talk, embrace and kiss him.

5. I recall the happy times I spent with my son—his birthday, Christmas, New Year, Valentine's Day and other milestones in his life.

6. I pray (I've rekindled my relationship with God) for the eternal repose of his soul everyday and every time I see people, places, or things that I associate with him. When I read about the death of somebody who is not yet 30 years old, I pause and pray for the eternal repose of the departed's soul.

7. I tell myself that I gave my son back to God, his Creator, where he belongs. I believe that the closer I am with God, the nearer I'll be with my son, who is now with God and His angels and saints.

8. I remind myself that life must go on. I don't let my grief overwhelm me. Instead, I keep busy and face life with renewed zest and enthusiasm.

The author, who is 50-plus years old, is connected with a government financial institution in Makati City.

Lydia Echauz is acting president of FEU

ECHAUZ

DR. LYDIA B. Echauz has recently been appointed acting president of Far Eastern University in place of Dr. Edilberto C. de Jesus, who is now the Secretary of Education.

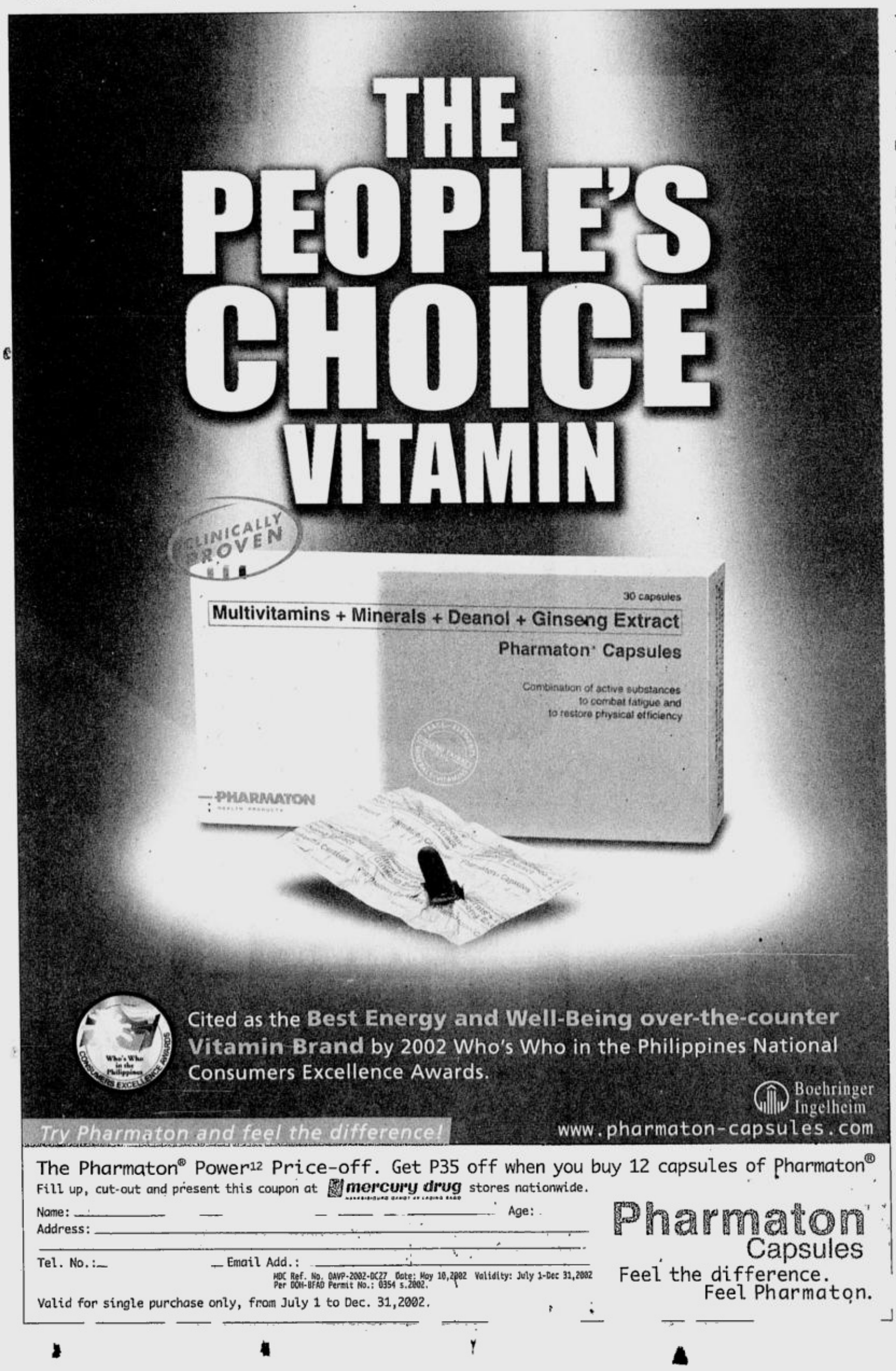
Dr. Echauz holds a BA degree, major in Economics/Mathematics from St. Theresa's College. She obtained her MBA and DBA degrees from the Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, respectively.

Dr. Echauz first joined FEU in August 1998 as a member of the board of trustees. Before that, she was dean of the graduate school of business of De La Salle University from 1986 to 2002. She served as associate director of the MBA program of the Ateneo Graduate School of Business for seven years. She also taught at the College of Business Administration of the University of the East for 12 years.

She was executive director of the Jaime V. Ongpin Institute of Business and Government, Ateneo, Makati, from 1989 to 1994. She has been the corporate affairs consultant of the SM Prime Holdings Inc. since 1994.

OUTSTANDING FILIPINO RETAILER

For exemplifying the ideals of a successful Filipino retailer in terms of growth and ethical business practice, Islands Souvenirs was conferred this year's Outstanding Filipino Retailer Award by the Philippine Retailers Association (PRA) and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). In particular, Islands Souvenirs was recognized for its dynamism in international franchising. The company now has franchises in Japan, Singapore and, most recently, the San Francisco Bay Area in California, USA. It is also expected to open several franchises in Hawaii within the year. This is Island Souvenirs' second award from the PRA and DTI. For domestic and international franchise inquiries, fax letters of intent to (032) 346-0317.



Park for the dead and the living

From page C1

For now, the park only offers interment services. Upon completion next year, a mortuary and a crematorium will be available. An optional soft embalming will be available then, a process that uses special chemicals to keep the skin supple and soft, enabling the face of the deceased to be molded for that soft smile.

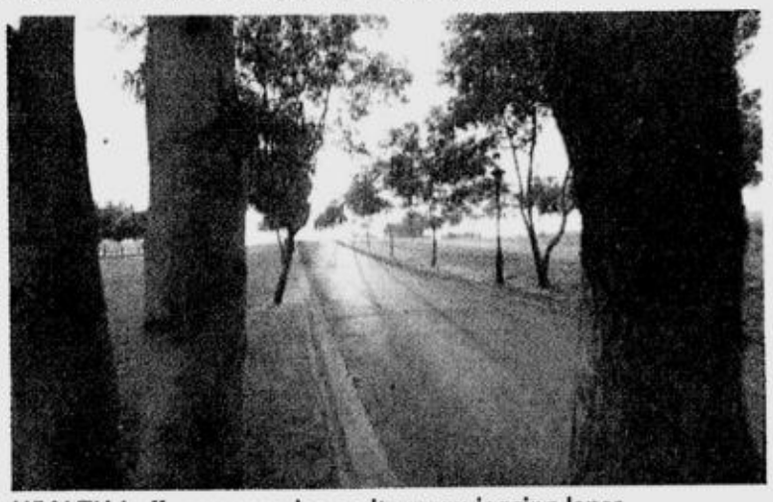
Since the controversial crematorium services in the US last year that involved families receiving fake ashes, some people have become wary of this process. With the park's soon-to-open hour-and-a-half cremation, clients are reassured of getting the real thing. "The ashes will be given to them right after the process so they can be sure it is their loved one's," Mendoza says.

Since the park opened last February, it has accommodated over 200 interment services. Only 90-95 percent shy of completion, the park will soon become a one-stop shop for funeral services, with the families' utmost comfort as its top priority.

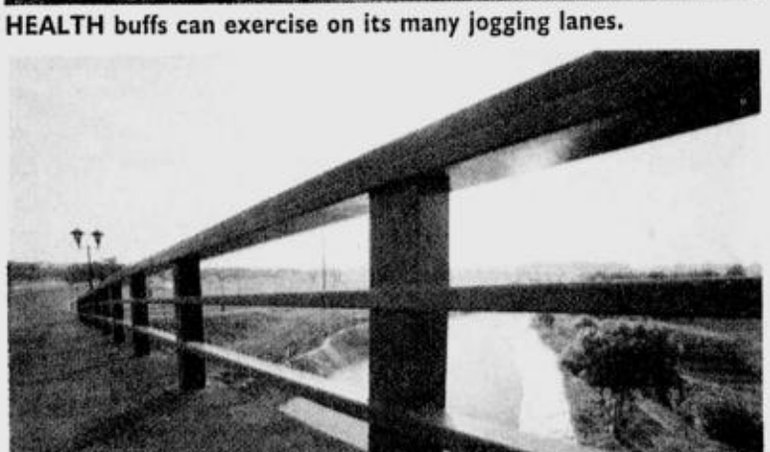
Life does go on, and the Heritage Memorial Park aims to hasten the process of moving on.

E-mail the author at ajambora @inquirer. com.ph

PROPERTY buyers are given a tour in golf carts.



HEALTH buffs can exercise on its many jogging lanes.



ENJOY fishing at its well-maintained manmade lagoon.

Lights . . . camera . . . death!

By Rowena C. Burgos

STRANGE, how little we think about one of life's big events. According to a recent study in the US, 75 percent of hospital patients don't discuss death with their families. Marriage, sex, birth—we're up to our neck in life skills information. But death? We usually leave it to the experts.

Funeral planning is a proactive decision, but it doesn't have to be complicated. Your funeral director can help. He arranges the details and handles the logistics of funerals. He interviews the family to learn their preferences—the nature of the funeral, the clergy or the persons who will officiate, and the disposition of the remains.

Sometimes the deceased leave detailed instructions for their own funerals. Together with the family, a funeral director establishes the location, dates and times of wakes, memorial services and burials. He arranges for a hearse to carry the body to the funeral home or mortuary. He also prepares obituary notices and their placing in newspapers.

One must also be aware of the funeral practices and rites among various cultures and religions. "At Arlington, most of our clients are Chinese so we have to follow their traditions, such as putting on the dead seven pieces of clothes, placing a red fabric and small pieces of paper, which symbolize money inside the coffin," Vargas says. "During the wake, a board where donations are pinned, a pagoda and incense should be placed inside the chapel."

In other countries, funeral directors also are trained, licensed and practicing embalmers. But not in the Philippines, where embalming is done by another person.

BOBBY L. Vargas, Arlington Memorial Chapels Inc.

You may never get to work under a Spielberg or a Bergman, but you will surely get to work under a funeral director, whether you like it or not

FREDDIE Paulete, Nacional Memorial Homes

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

"Preplanning your funeral allows you to decide the method of disposition you wish, the kind of services you want and allows your family to focus more on grieving and recovery," says Bobby L. Vargas, a funeral director of Arlington Memorial Chapels Inc.

Preplanning also allows you to make important decisions with a clear head. "From an emotional standpoint, people tend to make more rational and logical decisions when they preplan," says Freddie T. Paulete, a funeral director of Nacional Memorial Homes.

High-stress job

Funeral directors often work long, irregular hours. Theirs is considered a high-stress job. Many work on an on-call basis, because they may be needed to remove remains in the middle of the night. Shift work sometimes is necessary because funeral home hours include evenings and weekends. "It's a good-paying job. Basic salary ranges from P15,000-P30,000 plus incentives," says Vargas, who works from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., six days a week. Paulete, on the other hand, works from 11 p.m.-7 a.m., also six days a week.

Vargas and Paulete agree that important personal traits for funeral directors are composure, tact and the ability to communicate easily with the public. They also should have the desire and ability to comfort people in their time of sorrow.

Vargas has been a funeral director of Arlington for two years now. A political science graduate, he used to work as a family assistance supervisor of Pacific Plans for 23 years.

On the other hand, Paulete, an engineering undergraduate, has been a funeral director since 1978 and has worked with Tres Amigos, Good Shepherd Life Plan, Dulce Funeral Homes, Veronica Funeral Homes and San Fernando Funeral Homes.

Good business

In 2000, the big funeral homes in the Philippines took in profits of P6 million to P102.4 million. Not bad for a business that hardly existed 150 years ago, when deaths were handled by families, the church and the local sawbones. All that began to change with the industrial age. Since people wouldn't anymore stay down on the farm, hardly anyone was left behind to dispose of the body of a family member.

Enter the undertaker. Back then it was called a mortuary, but funeral home had a much nicer ring to it, and the undertaker (make that funeral director) struck upon a brilliant psychological and practical need.

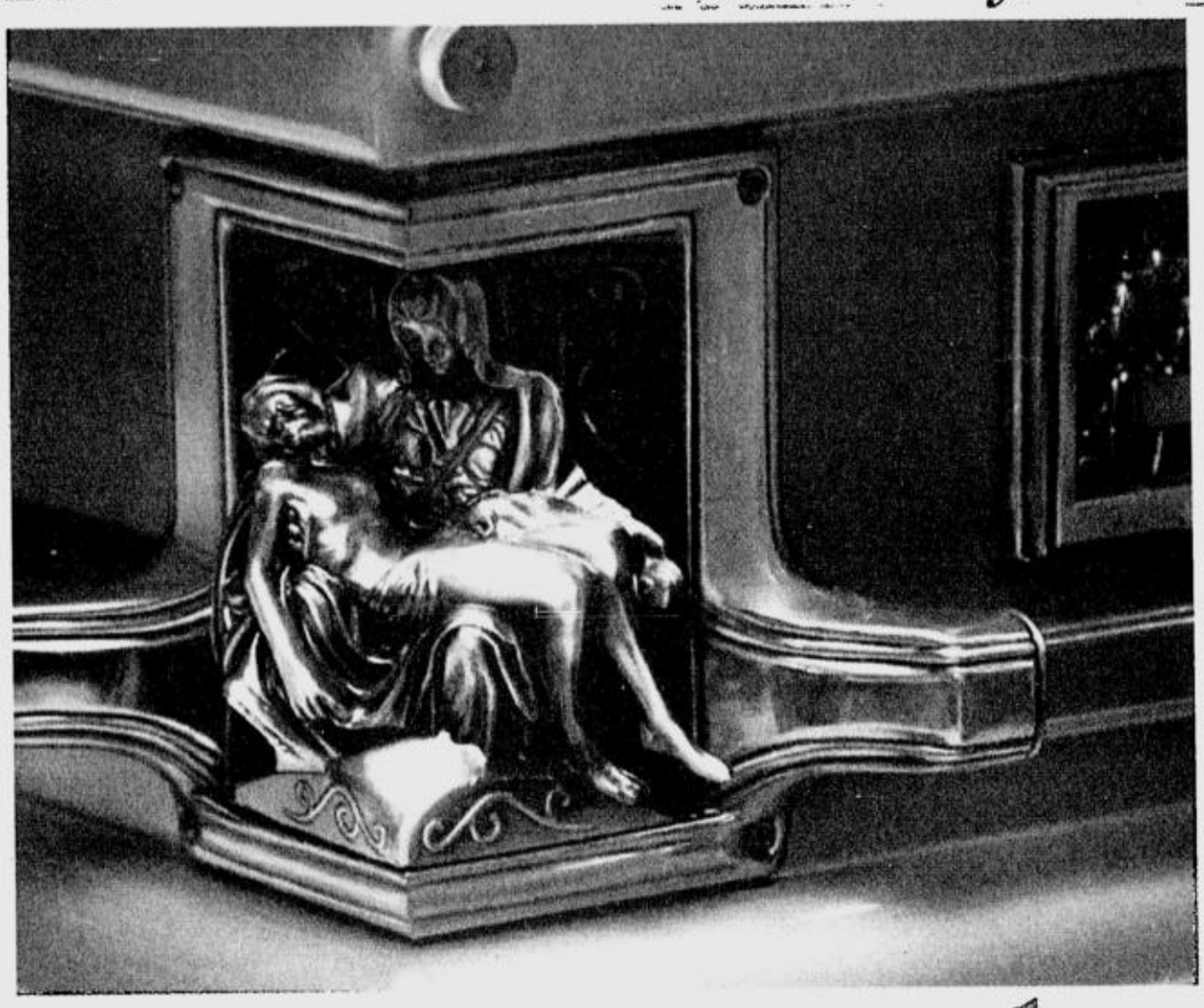
The career may not appeal to everyone, but those who work as funeral directors take great pride in their ability to provide efficient and appropriate services.

So how exactly do you leave this world without being taken for a ride? Vargas and Paulete suggest you begin the process by visiting various funeral homes in your community and deciding where you think your family would be most comfortable. Then, have an open discussion with the licensed funeral director about your choices. "You can do it yourself privately or bring some family members with you," Paulete says.

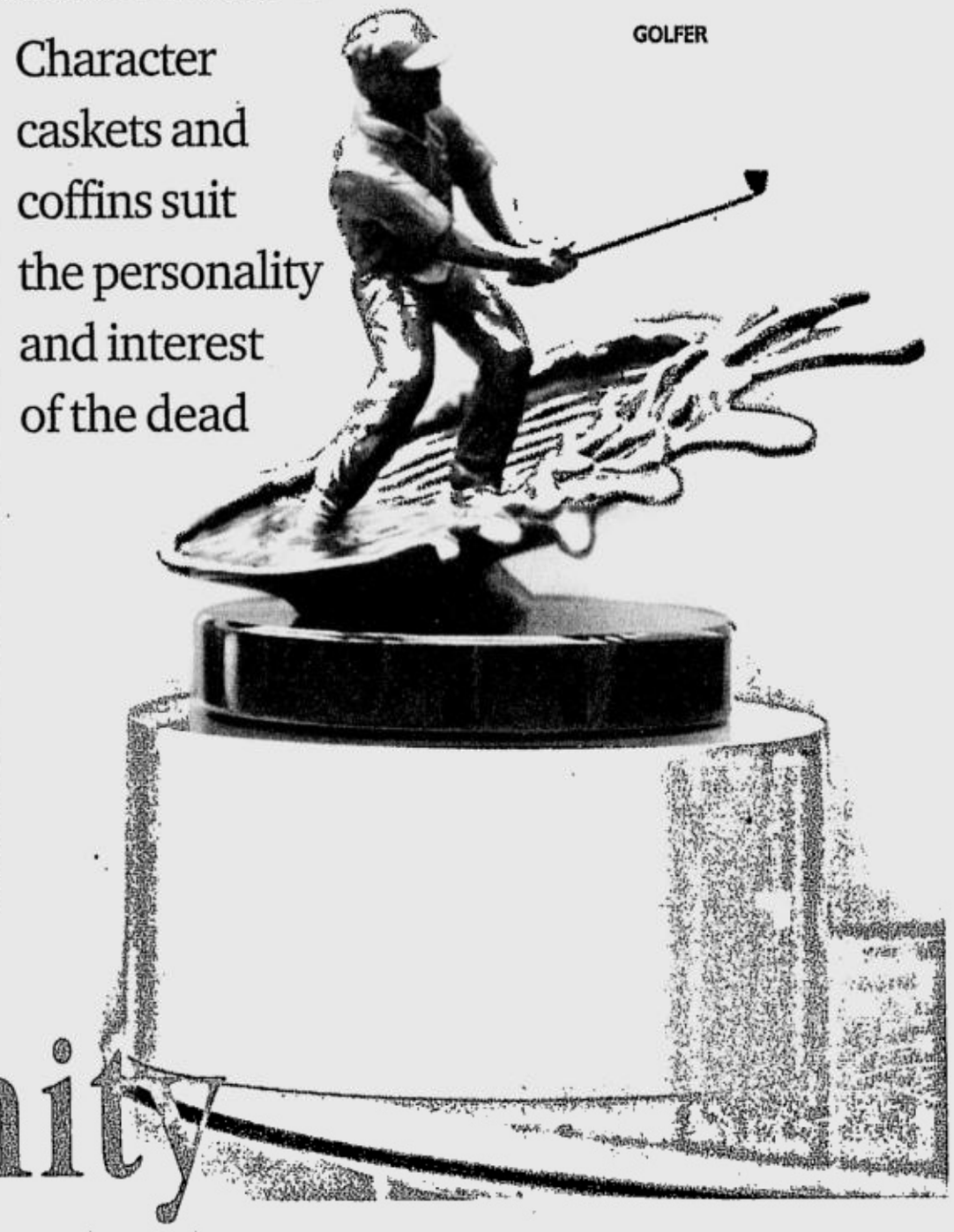
"We prepare for babies, colleges and buying a home, but we never prepare for death," says Vargas. "Preneed planning enables your family to know what your intentions are and eases the burden they will experience after you're gone."

Dealing with death and dying on a daily basis has made Paulete confront his own mortality. "The job makes you realize how important it is to live life."

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



LA Pieta



GOLFER

Vessels of eternity

Character caskets and coffins suit the personality and interest of the dead

PRAYING Hands

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Dennis Sabangan

DECIDING on which casket or urn to use for a departed loved one is just as critical as choosing the right wedding gown. But while the bride has the last say, the deceased cannot speak. Families and relatives are left to decide and source the right casket or urn that matches the deceased's personality.

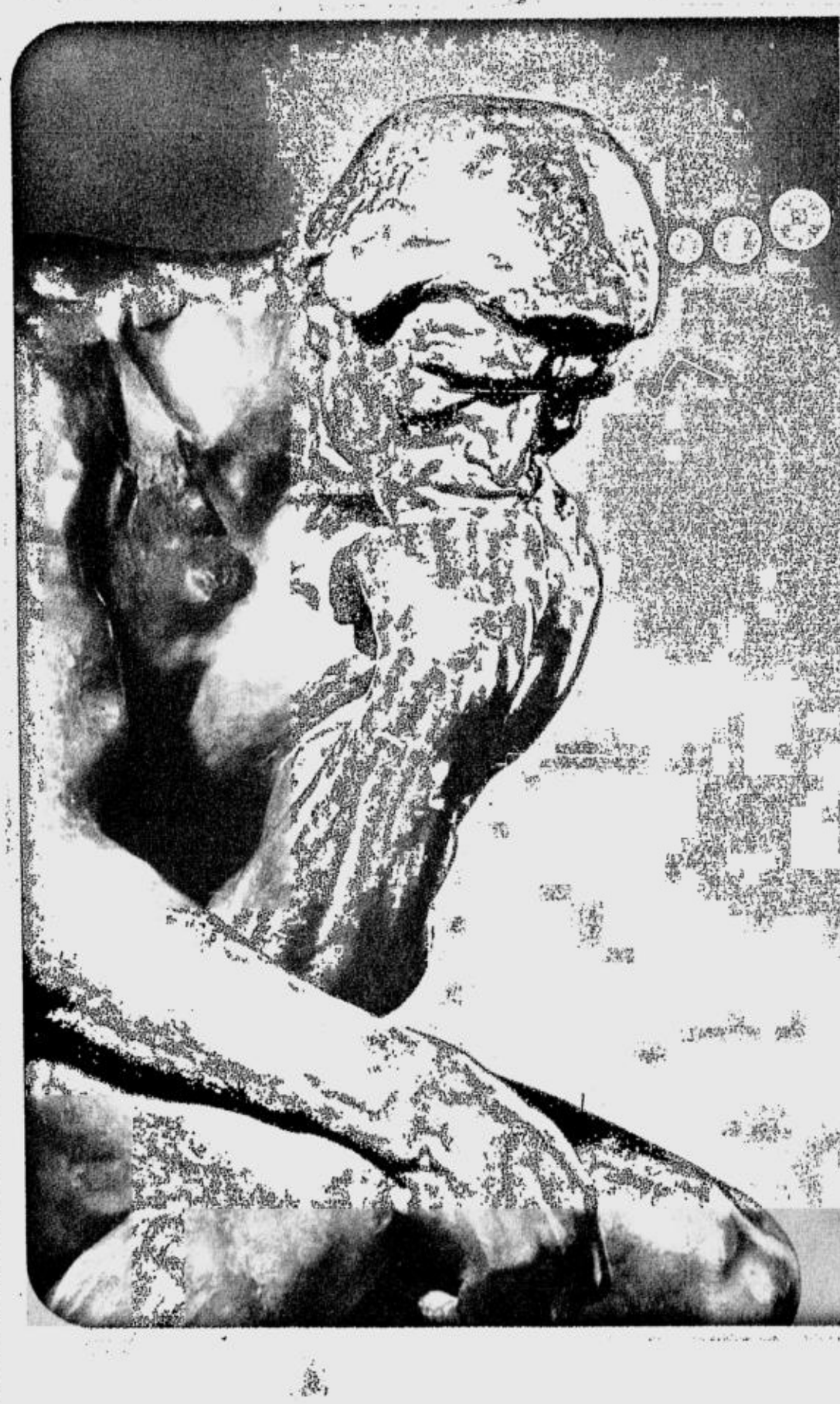
Yes, there are such things as character caskets and urns. They bear intricate details in artistry and craftsmanship, either handmade or employing state-of-the-art technology for that impeccable gleaming finish, available in various designs, colors and materials.

There are hundreds of designs, and making the decision may involve dizzying hours of flipping through catalogs and browsing pictures. It's well worth the pain, though, if only to make sure the loved one is given a fitting sendoff to the next life.

Rosehills Memorial Management (Phils.) Inc., the company that manages the Heritage Park in Fort Bonifacio, is the country's exclusive distributor of York caskets—such as those used by Rico Yan and Ma. Theresa Carlson—and supplier of over 120 imported urns. These eternal vessels don't come cheap—P200,000 to P1.5 million for caskets and P10,000-P35,000 for the urns. But executive manager Raquel Mendoza says people generally want to give the best to their departed loved ones, especially if they can afford it. "Besides, this is the last thing they can do for them," she says.

The US-made York caskets come in five categories: cremation cradle made of cardboard and cloth, wood casket made of solid

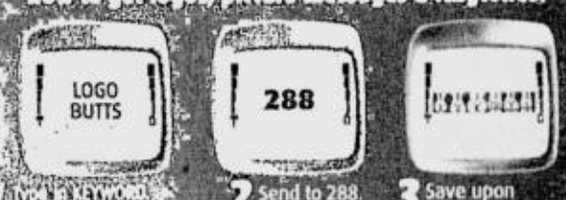
SMART zed™



Wondering who won in the zeducation design competition?

Wonder no more. Here are the finalists of the zeducation logo and picture message design competition. In addition to the Nokia 3350's that they've already received, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the logo and picture message design categories will be awarded 100,000 pesos, 40,000 pesos and 10,000 pesos respectively on November 9.* We will also be giving 15,000 pesos to the winner of the People's Choice Award to be chosen by you. So cast your votes now by downloading your favorite logo or picture message here.

How to get logos, picture messages & ringtones:



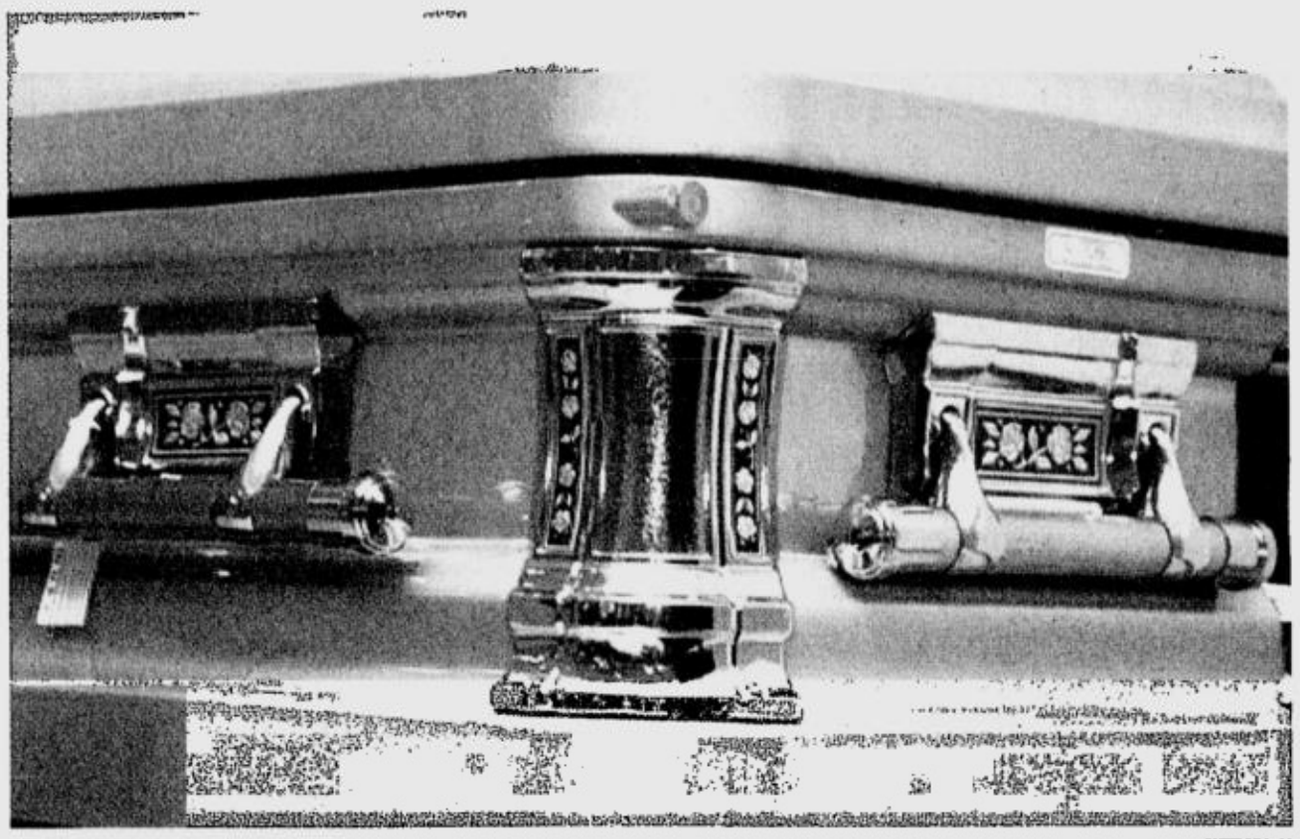
*Winners to be notified by ZONE 1 and via telegram and phone call on

cherry, sterling protective caskets with a 50-year warranty, non-protective caskets and solid bronze. It's luxury all the way to the grave. The interiors range from velvet to silk, but all come with adjustable headboard and foot side, pillows, and even keys in some models.

Characters

There is a wide range of choices for characters. Mendoza says for women between 25 and 35 years old, there's the Cameo Rose in antique-white or silver-rose finish and ice-pink velvet interiors. The devoutly religious can choose either La Pieta for that exquisite bronze carving that includes the Last Supper, or Devotion or Reverence, with angel engraving at the corners. There are also masculine and elegant designs for the sterling and solid bronze line, fitting for military officers and executives.

Clients who cremate their loved ones can also choose character urns. Imported from New Mexico, the solid bronze urns are masterfully crafted to the tiniest detail and can pass off as decorations or conversation pieces. There's the cold-cast bronze called Praying Hands for the religious, sculpted sandblast bronze Golfer for sport aficionados from the US, and cold-cast bronze Rose Bouquet for the ladies.



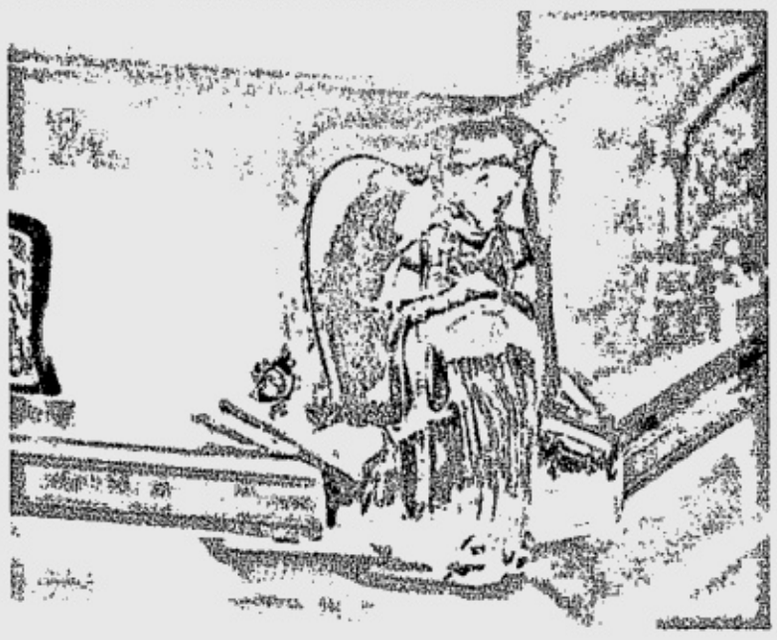
SILVER Rose

ROSE Bouquet

"These urns are meant to be displayed. We have 30 of each design, and once we only have 15 left we immediately reorder," Mendoza says.

US-made wood urns made of oak, walnut and maple feature elaborate laser-engraved 3D designs in many themes, suited for the deceased's passions in life. From Northern India come handmade urns created by artisans who have learned the craft from their ancestors. Small companion urns are available in case the ashes need to be distributed to family members away from home.

The Pink Collection, a delicate-looking urn made in China, is made of baked sand and metal. It is unbreakable. Bronze and silver urns, made in India, are enhanced by sophisticated carving. There are urns designed for two people, and others for infants.



REVERENCE

"There's something here for everybody," Mendoza says. Indeed, these eternal vessels speak for themselves.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Asia Fellows Awards accepting applications

THE PHILIPPINE Social Science Council (PSSC) announces the opening of the Asian Studies in Asia Fellows Awards (AFA) for 2003. The AFA provides opportunities to young scholars and mid-career professionals to carry out a research project or undertake a course of study in the arts, culture, humanities and social sciences.

The research project or program of study can be undertaken for a period of six to nine months in any of the participating countries in the region.

These include South Asian countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Republic Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; Southeast Asian countries like Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam; and the People's Republic of China.

The AFA is an Asia-wide program that aims to create a multinational network of Asian specialists in Asia. It is administered region-wide by the Bangkok-based Asian Scholarship Foundation with funding support from the Ford Foundation, and is being administered in the Philippines by PSSC, a private, nonprofit organization of social science associations.

Applicants to the AFA must not be more than 45 years old. They must also have a master's or doctorate, be proficient in English or in the language of the host country, and have a minimum of three years of university teaching experience for scholars or five years of work experience for professionals. Application forms are available at the PSSC Office on Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, QC. Deadline for submission of applications is on Jan. 3, 2003..

Call 929-2671 or 922-9630 or e-mail project@pssc.org.ph.

It's true! Talaga is first adopted school

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"*TALAGA?*" is the exclamation heard again and again among residents of a small *sitio* in Morong. *Talaga?* As in, really? Is it true? Talaga is also the name of a *sitio* in Barrio Maybancal in Morong, Rizal.

Talaga Elementary School was the first to be picked by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power's Adopt-a-School Program. The pilot school program was launched yesterday.

FWWPP chair Eugenia Apostol (center) with civic leaders and community members of Sitio Talaga

How lucky can Sitio Talaga get. But do you know the way to Talaga? Chances are, you don't. It is a sitio close enough (about two hours ride) to Metro Manila and yet so far from the ideal school that teachers and parents dream of for their children. But then Talaga Elementary School is only five months old. So small (only three grades), so poor and so ideal for adoption.

The Adopt-a-School Act (R.A. 8525) has been around since 1998, but little has been heard about it. It was meant to encourage private sector assistance for public schools. The Department of Education established the Adopt-a-School secretariat in 2000 to systematize the implementation of this law. Credit Anna Periquet, the youth sector representative who introduced the bill in Congress in 1997. It was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Juan Flavier and sponsored by the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan.

Breathe new life

Now FWWPP wants to breathe new life into this law by adopting schools and encouraging more people and organizations to do the same. The more adopting groups the better. But how?

Donating school buildings and textbooks, sending poor kids to school and sponsoring teacher-training programs are great, but adopting a school is a different ballgame altogether.

Adopt a school, adopt a community. Or rather, it could really be the other way around, as described by FWWPP chair Eugenia Apostol. Adopt the community that will adopt the school. In other words, the school gets adopted only if the community—the parents, teachers, local officials and civic leaders—are willing to get involved. Why bother if they are not interested in their children's future?

The Foundation for Worldwide People Power adopts a poor school in Talaga, Morong, Rizal, in a unique project to encourage the private sector to help public schools

TALAGA Elementary School still needs water and electricity.

A CIVIC leader of Sitio Talaga speaks before the community members.

And so one September day, under an ancient mango tree, FWWPP forged a deal with the concerned citizens of Maybancal. Parents, school and *barangay* officials, community organizers and church workers, met with FWWPP to present what they thought their little school needed. FWWPP listened and made known its willingness to adopt the school.

Wish list

The Parents-Teachers-Community Association presented its wish list, which included a canteen, a perimeter fence, and additional classrooms, toilets, clinic, concrete pathways, water system and more textbooks and teaching materials. The community pledged to give their labor and involvement.

Talaga Elementary School still has no water system and electricity, although the wiring and lighting fixtures have been installed.

Among the "Who's Who" in Talaga Elementary School's adoption are barangay chair Reynaldo Ramos, Dr. Rommel Serrano of Couples for Christ, Jovizardo Robles, Zuile Aquino, community organizer Rita Aquino, who works for the "mainstreaming" of the disabled, school principal Bayani Paz, district supervisor Nelia Paz, Lourdes Martinez and Bernadeth Rivera. They are Morong's concerned citizens who will work hand in hand with FWWPP.

FWWPP (e-mail fwwpp@glinesnx.com.ph) is making a new call for people power—power away from politics and nearer to the people.

'Maid-wife' getting irritable

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

My wife and I have been married for five years and we have two kids, aged two and three. During our first three years, we had a maid, but she left to take care of her sick mother.

The next maid we got was terrible—the house was always messy and the kids were always sick. After six months, we fired her and my wife quit her job (she was an executive secretary) and took over.

After a year, though, my wife wanted to go back to work. We've been looking for a maid but haven't found any.

Three months ago, we had a fight as she had become very short-tempered and had been badmouthing the kids. She said that maybe, I should be in her shoes so I'd know how she felt.

But I've been trying to get a maid and she's the one who is always looking for qualifications that maids don't normally have, and the P2,000 we can afford to pay the maid can't attract the best of them.

We are now civil to each other, but she is still very irritable when the kids are rowdy or when the house gets messy. Once, she told me that she wanted to be alone and far away.

I know she loves us, but she can't seem to keep from shouting at us and being irritable, which irritates me. The kids have even begun to copy her badmouthing.

I love my wife, but how can I endure her stubbornness?

TOMMY

I don't think being able to "endure" her should be your goal. Enduring means being unaffected by her ill temper and letting her stew in her rage against her demotion from executive secretary to *yaya* and all-around housemaid.

Your goal, instead, should be to help her cope with, and eventually, get out of her current role in your home. Getting out of it means getting a maid and putting your wife back in an office job. Coping means helping your wife deal with and appreciating better a housewife's role and accomplishments.

Your wife, though, should stop bargain-hunting for a supermaid. If given highly focused tasks, even a mediocre househelp would do wonders in your life right now. Assign the new maid just the essentials: take care of the kids and keep the house from burning down. All other chores can wait till you and your wife come home and are able to help.

While you haven't gotten that new maid, help your wife in the housework. Relieve her of tasks that you can do after office: washing the dishes, cleaning the stove, dusting the furniture, putting away (with the kids' help) toys and stuff, and scrubbing the floor.

Do some light laundry, too—your underwear, hankies, and a few of the kids' clothes. If you don't want the neighbors to see you at it, do the laundry in the kitchen sink and have your wife hang them on the clothesline.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Remember that housewives, not accidents, produce well-kept homes and well cared-for kids. So show your appreciation every day for your wife's accomplishments—the tasty dish, the well-ironed shirt, the nice-smelling kids.

Encourage the kids to draw Thank-you and I-love-you cards for her. Bring her flowers. Take her and the kids out on weekends, or baby-sit so she can nap. Massage her shoulders, back and legs at bedtime.

Too tired to do all those after getting back from work? Not as tired as your wife, I bet. She's up preparing breakfast before you awake, and she's still working when you get home.

Time for you to make good on that unspoken marriage vow that couples take: To be together in house chores and not just in bed.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

Memo of understanding signed

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding was signed by Leisure Farms, the Philippine's first hobby farming and agri-tainment development, and Figaro Coffee Company for the establishment of the Figaro Coffee Park that will open next year.

Figaro, a Philippine-owned coffee company, will supply all of the farms' coffee technology, put up an organic coffee demonstration farm and coffee park in the 13.8-hectare complex.

The Coffee Park will be Figaro's first showcase coffee farm, and its first café outlet with a coffee park. It will feature the whole coffee-making process, showing visitors how to grow, roast, grind and serve coffee. A Figaro café will be set up overlooking the coffee park.

The Figaro-Leisure Farms partnership also aims to help save the *barako*, Philippine Liberica coffee species, from extinction. Another highlight of the partnership is the creation of a Leisure Farms blend of coffee that will be sold in Figaro outlets.

The memorandum was signed by Pacita Juan, president of Figaro, and Alby Xerez-Burgos and Diane Malonzo of Leisure Farms, a development project of Landco Pacific Corporation in Lemery, Batangas. Call 807-8754 local 375.

Lifestyle bazaar at Polo Club

"HEAVEN Sent: The Lifestyle Bazaar" celebrates its 10th Anniversary. The season's best finds and buys will be found in over 100 booths at the bazaar scheduled for Nov. 16-17 and 22-24 at the Manila Polo Club. Some 30 first-time bazaar participants will be featured.

The bazaar will benefit the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Call (632) 812-9405.

All Flowers' Day

From page C8

yellow, orange, red and blue.

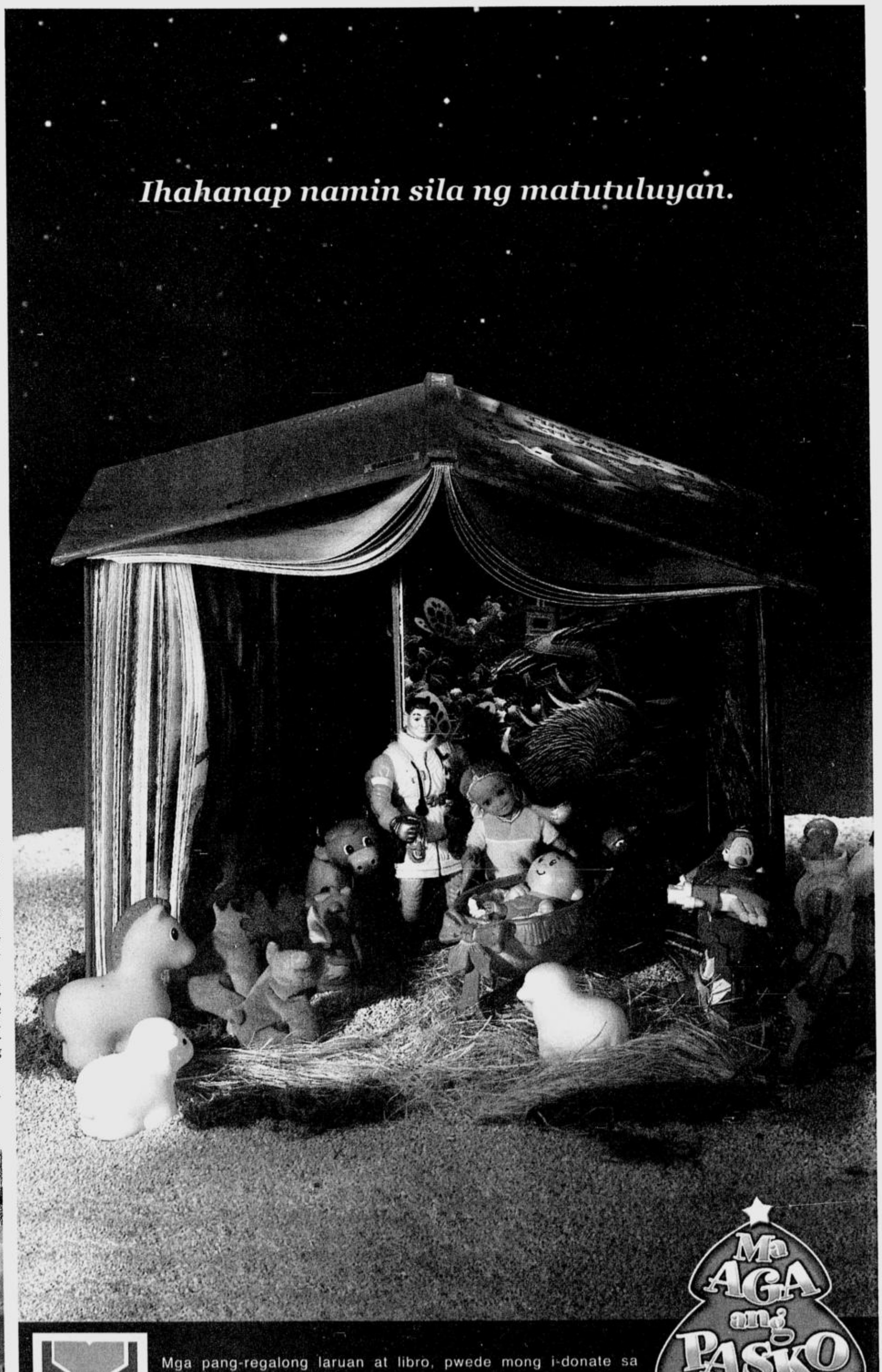
For a high-end arrangement, a lavish display of imported lilies, phalaenopsis (butterfly orchids) and double extra-large anthuriums will perfectly do.

Roses, observes De los Reyes, are not in demand around this time. "I think they're best given during Valentine's Day and Mother's Day. People want long-lasting flowers because they bring them to the cemetery, so they prefer anthuriums and spray mums."

All flowers are attractively arranged in vases, baskets or casket saddles (a shallow metal container with rubber pads which De los Reyes bought from the United States). There are also arrangements with stands, either made of bamboo or steel, with a big wreath covered with beautiful blooms.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

THE GREEN arrangement of Midori anthuriums, red amaranth and Queen Anne's lace



THE ELEGANCE of white anthuriums nestled with sprays of Queen Anne's lace and green amaranth

All Flowers' Day

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Johnny Villena

Blooms and blossoms brighten up the day for remembering the dead

WHEN Filipinos honor their dead, they do so with flowers.

During this time of the year, gravesites or family altars are profusely decorated with flowers in all kinds, shapes and colors. And because flowers add color and cheeriness to the occasion, All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day have a pleasant tenor for most of us.

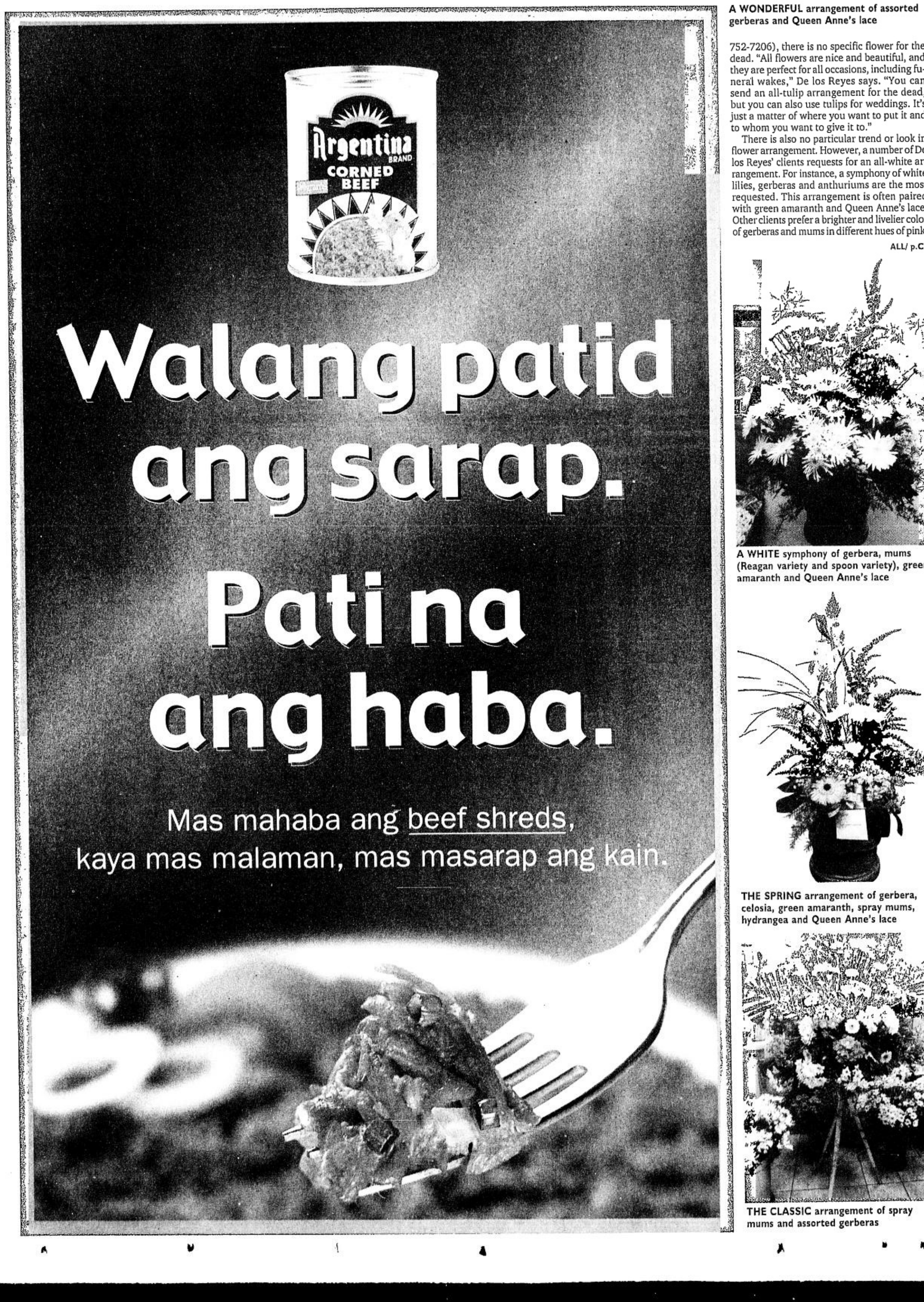
According to Ging de los Reyes of The Flower Farm, the last week of October is one of the busiest times for flower shops (the other occasions are February because of Valentine's Day, December because it's the wedding month, and May because of Mother's Day). "We prepare and arrange hundreds of flowers in time for the All Saint's Day."

At The Flower Farm (tels. 815-6665 and 752-7206), there is no specific flower for the dead. "All flowers are nice and beautiful, and they are perfect for all occasions, including funeral wakes," De los Reyes says. "You can send an all-tulip arrangement for the dead, but you can also use tulips for weddings. It's just a matter of where you want to put it and to whom you want to give it to."

There is also no particular trend or look in flower arrangement. However, a number of De los Reyes' clients requests for an all-white arrangement. For instance, a symphony of white lilies, gerberas and anthuriums are the most requested. This arrangement is often paired with green amaranth and Queen Anne's lace. Other clients prefer a brighter and livelier color of gerberas and mums in different hues of pink,

ALL/ p.C7

A WONDERFUL arrangement of assorted gerberas and Queen Anne's lace



A WHITE symphony of gerbera, mums (Reagan variety and spoon variety), green amaranth and Queen Anne's lace

THE SPRING arrangement of gerbera, celosia, green amaranth, spray mums, hydrangea and Queen Anne's lace

THE CLASSIC arrangement of spray mums and assorted gerberas

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2002 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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SANTI and Alma Alcantara

He has wedding plans but no bride

Text by Belle V. Bondoc
Photos by Chito Vecina

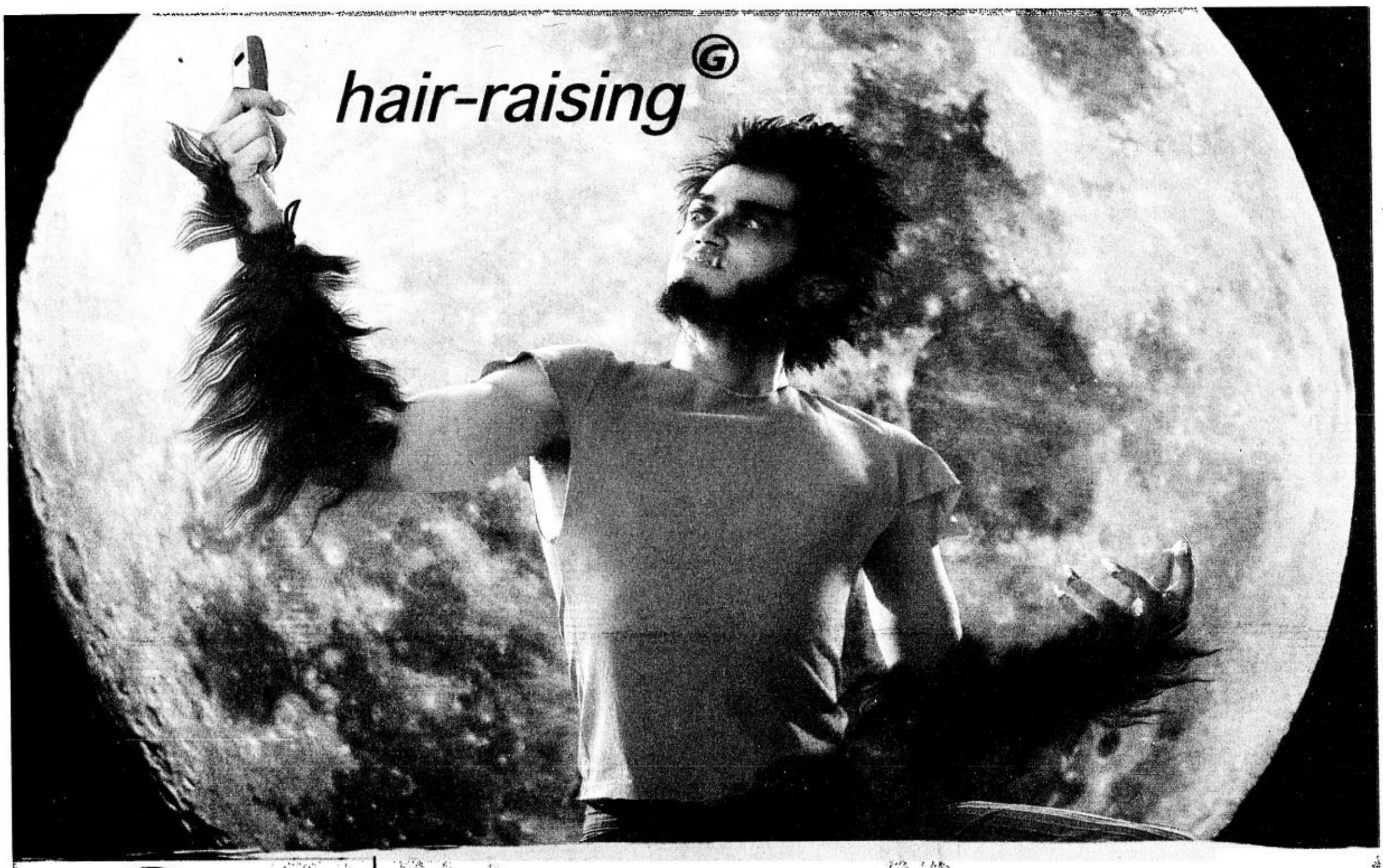
NO one really knew how it happened. But for Santiago Alcantara, it was an answer to a prayer when he met his future bride, Alma Ebrada.

"Even before I met Alma, I already pictured how I wanted my wedding to be. *May plano na—kung saan ako magpapakasal, kailan, sino ang mga ninong at ninang.* But the biggest problem was, *wala nga lang akong* bride," confesses Alcantara, Santi to his friends.

He was beginning to resign himself to bachelorhood after a failed relationship. Although he was eager and serious about looking for a lifetime partner, at the age of 35, he considered giving up, knowing he was not getting any younger.

He admitted courting different girls all at

HE/ p.D2



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halowee3 meow owl2 pumpkin2
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RINGTONES

SONG TITLE	KEYWORD	ARTIST
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THE ADDAMS FAMILY	addams2	The Addams Family Theme
X-FILES THEME	xfiles	X-Files theme
TOCATTA IN D MINOR	dracula	PD
FUNERAL MARCH OF A MARIONNETTE	funeral	PD
TUBULAR BELLS	exorcist	Tubular Bells
THEME FROM POLTERGEIST	poltrgst	Mysteries Sound Orchestra
THEME FROM TWILIGHT ZONE	twilight	Roy Shakked
ABSOLUTELY	absoluti	Nine Days
OOPS	oopsohmy	Tweet
SOMETHING	somethin2	Lasgo
CALL ME	calime	Tweet
PLAY THAT FUNKY MUSIC	funkymus	Wild Cherry
HOTSTUFF	hotstuff	Donna Summer
SMOOTH CRIMINAL	smoothcr	Michael Jackson
TOM'S DINER	tomsdine	Suzanne Vega
SPIDERMAN THEME	spiderman	Spiderman theme
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He has wedding plans but no bride

From page D1

the same time.

"*Ang dami kong niligawan, mga* professionals. But I was praying really hard. I even completed nine novena Masses to ask for my bride. I asked the Lord to give me a sign of who to marry. *Sino ba talaga ang itinadhanang babae para sa akin*?" he says.

He was like the man in the popular Marco Sison song, "Si Aida, o si Lorna o si Fe."

First meeting

Fate finally took charge. He met Alma probably not at the right place but definitely at the right time.

In August last year, Santi met Alma at the lobby of the INQUIRER. She works as a server in a canteen near the INQUIRER office while Santi is an editorial assistant in the newspaper.

After that first meeting, Santi would order his dinner from the canteen where Alma worked almost every day. She would personally deliver the order to him.

Although they were strangers to each other when they meet, Santi and Alma found an instant bond that was totally unexpected. They are both natives of Bicol—Santi from Catanduanes, Alma from Albay.

The simple meetings and casual chats in the INQUIRER office soon graduated to frequent textings, long hours of phone conversations and exchange of personal stories. They felt at ease with each other. The relationship started to take a serious turn after months of friendship.

"*... Unti-unti nang nahulog ang loob ko sa kanya. Masaya ako kapag nagkakausap kami. Kuntento ako kapag kasama ko siya,*" admits Santi.

And love started to blossom.

Eventually he would ask Alma if she would consider a relationship with him, although he anticipated some raised eyebrows.

"A lot of people would say, 'Professional *ka naman pero bakit siya*?,'" says Santi.

But he couldn't care less. What mattered were his feelings for her. He loved her simple and kind ways. He was also drawn to her cooking, especially her *cocido*, his favorite, proving once again there's really a lot of truth in the saying that "the quickest way to a man's heart is through his stomach."

Alma found Santi fascinating as well. She relished his gift of gab and wonderful sense of humor. "*Palatawa siya at mabait naman talaga*," she says.

The friendship became a full-blown romance. The couple became sweethearts on New Year's Eve.

Santi finally proposed but in an offhand, joking way: "What if I decided to marry you?"

Not taking him seriously, Alma's reply was, "*Magpakasal ka sa sarili mo! Huwag mo akong binibiro nang ganyan at baka totohanin ko.*"

A few days later, Santi went to Alma's place to ask for her hand. He brought her six red roses with a sweet note saying, "For my wife." This time it was for real and she accepted without hesitation.

The wedding

With the groom preparing for the wedding even before he met his bride-to-be, arrangements were made quite quickly. A month before the wedding, invitations were sent.

With the blessings of their parents, Juan and Pacita Alcantara and Pastor and Maura Ebrada, the couple were wed on Sept. 28 in Imus Cathedral in Cavite, at solemn rites officiated by Rev. Fr. Henry Vega and Rev. Fr. Felipe Faustino.

Families and close friends attended the ceremony. Everyone was amused as the groom fought bravely to keep the tears from falling. It was a losing battle. He found the woman that would complete him.

Principal sponsors were Mayor Gregorio Angeles, lawyer Renato Quintana, INQUIRER news editor Nilo Paurom, Rafael Ray Songco, INQUIRER sports editor Alfonso Mendoza, Ernesto Cruz, Danilo Velasco, Arthur Alcantara, Luz Fernida, Dr. Ma. Clara Ravina, INQUIRER editor in chief Leticia Jimenez Magsanoc, INQUIRER assistant business editor Corrie Narisma, INQUIRER section editor Regina Reyes, Alicia Militsala, Ofelia Fugano and Dr. Eva Evangelista.

Alma was a radiant bride in an ecru off-shoulder gown with corded lace accented with scattered delicate beads and crystals, corseted top and bias skirt with a cathedral-length train in duchess satin designed by Paul Rex Mateo.

A simple and solemn reception was held at Imus Pilot Elementary School. The couple's friends and relatives sang their favorite songs.

The newlyweds will make their home in Imus.

E-mail the author at rbapril_25@yahoo.com

He was beginning to resign himself to bachelorhood after a failed relationship

WITH SECONDARY sponsors and bridesmaids (from left) Enrique Punsalang IV, Alex Ebrada, Arnold Bolaños; Salve Alcantara, Michelle Remo, Rizalea Punsalang, Carina Ramiro and Marinel Cruz

SANTI and Alma with the INQUIRER family

WITH THE BRIDE'S parents Maura and Pastor Ebrada

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Milestones

We accept announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send in the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and related brief information. Readers may send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

RANIN-CRUZ

Maria Gianeli B. Cruz, daughter of Pedro "Eddie" and Gloria Cruz of Malabon and Manila, will marry **Ronald Celi Ranin**, son of lawyer **Salvador** and **Yolanda Ranin** of Quezon City, on Dec. 30 at the Manila Cathedral, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at Villa Immaculada. Rev. Fr. **Alfredo "Bong" Guerrero** will officiate the wedding Mass. The bride will ride in a white horse-drawn carriage from the Manila Hotel to the church. **Edward Teng** designed the gowns of the bride and her entourage, which are in shades of tangerine and gold.

TANLO DEBUT

Bianca Grace Tanlo, daughter of **Benny** and **Vergie Tanlo**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Oct. 31 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. Bianca is from Quezon City and is a computer science student majoring in Software Technology at De La Salle University Manila. **Loretto** designed her gown.

VICENTE-BETIS

Roger Lloyd C. Vicente, only son of **Roger Vicente** and **Ofelia Cortez**, will wed **Mary Ann P. Betis**, daughter of **Luzviminda Pangan vda. de Betis**, on Dec. 10 at the Iglesia ni Cristo Church, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija. Reception will follow at Villa Candida Resort and Orchidarium, Sto. Tomas, San Jose City. The bride will wear a jusi with duchess satin lining gown accented by scattered olive-green and pale-yellow crystal glass beads designed by **Lauro Antonio Jr.**

NIETO DEBUT

Crystal Grace A. Nieto, daughter of Renato and Agnes Nieto, will celebrate her coming of age on Nov. 4, 6 p.m. at the Manila Midtown Hotel. Crystal will wear a **Sherdon Evangelista** creation. She is a junior AB International Studies student of College of the Holy Spirit, Manila.

Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Bacoor builds new church

HOPE refuses to die in the hearts of the people of Queen's Row in Bacoor, Cavite, as they finally begin to build their new church.

Groundbreaking ceremonies took place on Sept. 29, feast of St. Michael and the Archangels, with parish priest Fr. Paul de Leon and engineer Avelino Yongayang, chair of the construction committee, leading the rites.

A warehouse was converted into a place of worship almost 20 years ago. It was only in 1994, when Fr. Gene Rafal was parish priest, that a land was donated by the GSIS for the site of a church and convent.

The late restoration architect Felix Imperial did the design, which included a convent and parish center. Several years back, through an intensive fund-raising, Fr. Paul was able to mobilize the construction of the latter.

Finally, the church is going to be put up because the people of Queen's Row and their donors never gave up. I remember going to Queen's Row for the first time in 1993 to attend Mass. People were standing on the street to hear Mass. It was then that I found out that the church was too small to accommodate everyone.

Last May, when I attended the wedding of the son of Cely Romero, who runs her own school in Queen's Row, the convent and parish center were already built. The people were proud of them.

The parishioners are still raising funds. Those who wish to help can write Fr. Paul de Leon through Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite.

FR. Paul de Leon with engineer Avelino Yongayang at the groundbreaking of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Patroness of the youth

I had the most beautiful experience last Saturday in Pulilan, Bulacan, when Zenaida Santos, directress of Colegio de Sta. Philomena, invited me to give a talk on Marian shrines.

I found a close-knit community of parents, teachers and students who care for each other.

At the time I was there, a 13-year-old student died of acute viral encephalitis. Diana Martin was a bright and lovable student. One of the teachers, Racquel Manlapas, said she was a good child. In a community meeting, it was discussed how such tragedies could be prevented like giving vaccinations to children.

Colegio de Sta. Philomena began as a tutorial effort in the early '80s at the ancestral house of Santos, who wanted to put up a school. A friend advised her to pray to Sta. Philomena, patroness of the youth, so her dream would come true.

Another friend, Lourdes Mañalac, helped her put up in 1989 the elementary building behind the property. The high-school building followed in 1997. Today there are 92 pre-schoolers, 219 grade-schoolers and 123 high-school students.

In all these, Sta. Philomena helped. A statue of the saint is enthroned in the office area of the ancestral house.

The afternoon I was there, Fr. Vic. Robles, rector of the Divine Mercy in Sta. Rosa, Marilao, officiated Mass.

ZENAIDA Santos with St. Philomena

St. Philomena in Mugnano

When we left for Rome on Oct. 1, the Church of St. Philomena in Avelino, Mugnano, was not part of the itinerary. We planned to go to her Church on Oct. 8 after the canonization of St. Josemaria Escriva on Oct. 6 at St. Peter's Square.

We prayed to the saint to guide us to her church by taking the train to Naples, then getting a taxi to Avelino. But St. Philomena made it easier for us.

Our driver Enzo, who was from Naples, knew that we could pass by Avelino on our way to Rome. So we were able to visit the church in the afternoon of Oct. 5, pray to the saint and buy religious items.

All of us 13 pilgrims wanted to see the Church of St. Philomena. For me, it was a "thank you" trip for helping me in many ways.

Our Lady of Biglang Awa

The Triduum of Masses in honor of Our Lady of Biglang Awa will be held on Nov. 8, 5:30 p.m; Nov. 9, 4 p.m., and Nov. 10, 4 p.m., in St. Paul's Seminary at 7708 St. Paul Road, San Antonio Village, Makati City.

Our Lady of Biglang Awa Foundation holds this yearly fiesta for devotees who live in Metro Manila. In charge of the fiesta are groups from the towns of Sta. Cruz, Torrijos, Buenavista, Boac, Mogpog and Gasan; the Marinducare Foundation, Biglang Awa Foundation, and youth and professionals.

Albine Hidalgo-Padua is the president of the Biglang Awa Foundation; Patria Nepomuceno-Jacinto, VP; Delia Hermoso, secretary/legal counsel; Alice Villaseñor-Pesigan, treasurer; Milagros Laguio-Querubin, Dulce Laurel Bocobo, Fe Manguera-de Leon, trustees; and Estrella Madrigal-Catral, *recamedera*.

Reaching out to the poor

The foundation is undertaking a private fund campaign among close friends, associates and devotees of Our Lady of Biglang Awa. Proceeds will be allocated to welfare and charity programs such as the annual financial support for poor seminarians in the Diocese of Boac, catechetical instructions, and First Communion preparation for public-school students, medical assistance for the sick and handicapped, repair and improvement of chapels and churches in Marinduque, and other works of Christian charity.

This year, the Foundation, realizing the importance of pre-school education in many *barangays*, has supported the salaries of teachers and teacher's instructional materials. Christmas gifts for the children and miscellaneous expenses for two *barangays* will be given through Marinducare Foundation.

We invite you to be a donor to this private fund drive and participate in the Thanksgiving Triduum in honor of Our Blessed Mother.

Those who wish to help may write Sebine Padua at Biglang Awa Foundation, 5/F Goldrich Building, 4858 Cuengco St. corner South Superhighway, Makati City. Thank you for your kindness.

Congregacion turns 23

Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus turned 23 last Oct. 27. Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bong Bongayon, SVD, parish priest of the Sacred Heart Parish in Kamuning.

Inducted officers were Jing Chua, president; Ricky Miranda, VP; Rommel Ortin, secretary; Nolie Hans, treasurer; Tony Adriano, chair of the board; and Ben Farrales, founding chair. Deo Pamilar was inducted new member.

The Congregacion has, for the past 23 years, been holding the yearly exhibit of Sto. Niño images in January and a grand procession on the last Sunday of that month from Philtrade to Luneta.

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish

The people of Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan, are currently building their church dedicated to St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of impossible cases. Fr. Frederick Malacas, parish priest, wrote to say that the parish was erected in October 2000. The feast day of St. Jude is on Oct. 28.

It was timely that I found the letter of the priest the following day. It seems that St. Jude wants me to write about this parish.

Devotees of St. Jude, or readers who want to help may write Fr. Frederick Malacas through St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Andagao, Kalibo, Aklan.

Philippine Jesuit Aid Association

The Philippine Jesuit Aid Association has, since time immemorial, been the source of Mass cards for the repose of souls in Purgatory. The late Fr. Pascual Adorable, SJ, supported it. Those who wish to order Mass cards may call 563-5286 or 90, or write to 2307 Pedro Gil St., Sta. Ana, Manila.

Today is the feast day of St. Martin de Porres, patron of the sick.

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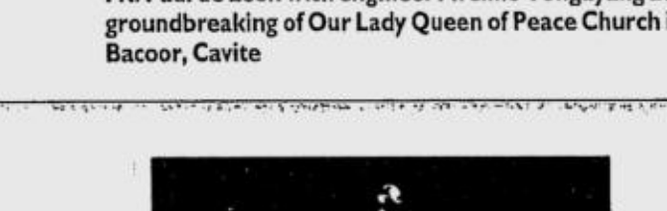

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Film showings mark Czech National Day

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

OCTOBER was a month of film festivals for Cebu. Cine Europa saw crowds of young people who came to appreciate 10 European films of fine quality. Then came an Israeli filmfest, which also saw large numbers of students during the screening sessions.

And then the Czech embassy, to celebrate its National Day, showed two wonderful films at SM City Cebu's Theater One.

The occasion brought to the city Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky with his wife Binh, their sons Mark and Adam, the embassy's Jana Chaloupkova, and the Czech Republic's Honorary Consul Gilbert Go, who is based in Davao City, where the films were to be shown two days later.

In a brief ceremony before the screening of the first film, Ambassador Slavicky, who was on his third visit to Cebu, cited the special ties that bound his country to the city. The patron saint here is the Sto. Niño, and everyone knows that the devotion to the Holy Child started in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic.

He also mentioned that the Philippine Ambassador in Prague was Carmelita Rodriguez, a Cebuana and widow of the late United Nations Deputy Secretary General Rafael Salas.

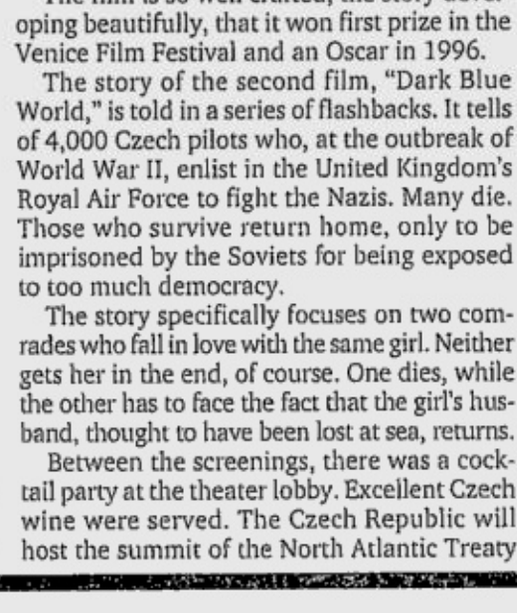
The two films shown were by famous Czech director Jan Sverak. In "Kolya," the director's own father, Zdenek Sverak, has the lead role as a down-and-out cellist who enters into an arranged marriage with a Russian woman, who bolts off to Germany to meet her lover, and leaves with her mother a little boy. The old woman dies and the little boy becomes the cellist's ward.

The film is so well crafted, the story developing beautifully, that it won first prize in the Venice Film Festival and an Oscar in 1996.

The story of the second film, "Dark Blue World," is told in a series of flashbacks. It tells of 4,000 Czech pilots who, at the outbreak of World War II, enlist in the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force to fight the Nazis. Many die. Those who survive return home, only to be imprisoned by the Soviets for being exposed to too much democracy.

The story specifically focuses on two comrades who fall in love with the same girl. Neither gets her in the end, of course. One dies, while the other has to face the fact that the girl's husband, thought to have been lost at sea, returns.

Between the screenings, there was a cocktail party at the theater lobby. Excellent Czech wine were served. The Czech Republic will host the summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato) this month in Prague. In two years' time, the country will join the European Union.



CEBU Marriott GM Christiane Wasfy and Thai Ambassador Busba Bunnag

Thai treat

Savory Siam, a festival of Thai cuisine at the Cebu City Marriott Hotel, brought to Cebu Ambassador of Thailand Busba Bunnag, who graced the opening ceremony. Extending a warm welcome was the hotel's lovely GM Christiane Wasfy, garbed in an elegant Thai silk costume of rich emerald green.

Among those present were Jose Ng, president of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and honorary trade advisor of the Royal Thai Ministry of Commerce in the Philippines; director Dawn Roa of the Department of Tourism, Cebu Holdings president Rene Almendras, Cathay Pacific's Cebu manager Lawrence Fong, and sales manager Connie Cimafranca, who received kudos for bringing in two chefs—Somkiat Saithong and Yenhai Suthinaja—from the Marriott in Phuket.

Everything was so delicious that many—including Amelia Castillo LaO—returned another night to enjoy the tempting array in the Marriott's Garden Café. For one whole week, Cebu gourmets and gourmands enjoyed the spices, flavors and imagination of Siamese food for lunch and dinner.

Yes, it is correct to say Siam or Siamese. The Thai (er, Siamese) royal family refers to their kingdom as Siam, and nothing else.

Chinese treats

To mark the 53rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, the country's Consul General in Cebu, Wu Lianqi, hosted a reception and dinner at the grand ballroom of the Cebu Plaza Hotel. Receiving the guests with Consul General Wu was Consul Wang Jilu. The large hall was decorated with hundreds of red balloons and lit by huge red silk Chinese lanterns.

Governor and Ms Pablo Garcia headed the list of VIPs in attendance, which included Vice Gov. John-John Osmeña, Cebu City Vice Mayor Michael Rama, Rep. Nerissa Soon Ruiz and husband Lito Ruiz, Mandaue City Mayor Tadeo Ouano, Lapu-Lapu City Vice Mayor Norma Patalinhug, Paz Radaza (wife of the Lapu-Lapu City mayor), the Philippine Consul General in Xiamen Corazon Yap Bahjin, Presidential Assistant for Visayas Felix Guanzon, Central Command's Gen. Jacinto Ligot and Gen. Joaquin Tan.

CATHAY Pacific's Sabina and Lawrence Fong with China's Consul General Wu Lianqi

SHANGRI-LA GM Desmond Hatton and Michel Lhuillier (seated) with F&B director Dexter Cheng and Amparito Lhuillier

Speaking of China, that was a fabulous dinner hosted by La Chaine des Rotisseurs at the Shang Palace of the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort. The 10-course dinner was to the credit of chef Eddie Chua and his excellent staff—Greg Gotot, Cris Nemenio, Russel Perez and James Adamos. Amparito Lhuillier, as Madame La Baili of La Chaine in Cebu, gave them citations, and the guests broke into a hearty applause when they emerged from the kitchen to take a bow.

The Shangri-La's GM, Desmond Hatton, and F&B director, Dexter Cheng, also collected their due praise.

Only 22 guests could be accommodated in the area reserved for the epicurean experience. Many of them were dressed for the occasion, specially the ladies.

Amparito chose black brocade while Teresing Mendezona was a vision in sky blue silk. Vivina Yrastorza and Lita Urbina also chose black, while Pilar Cusi came in aqua, Joji Alonso in metallic maroon, and Rosebud Sala adorned herself with a trailing black-and-white scarf.

The stag line included Michel Lhuillier, Markus Stern, Ricardo Urbina, Al Evangelio, George Rondina, Patrick Gregorio, Jericho Sungahid, Nestor Alonso, Richard Uysiuseng, Vic Cusi, Tony Lozada and Gabriel Palmer, whose excellent Spanish wines from Valdepeñas continue to be the rage in Cebu.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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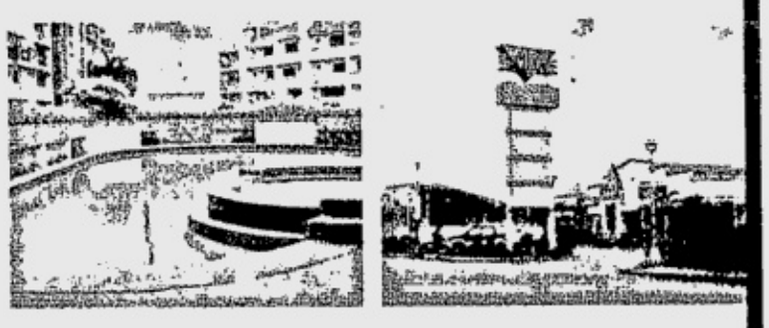

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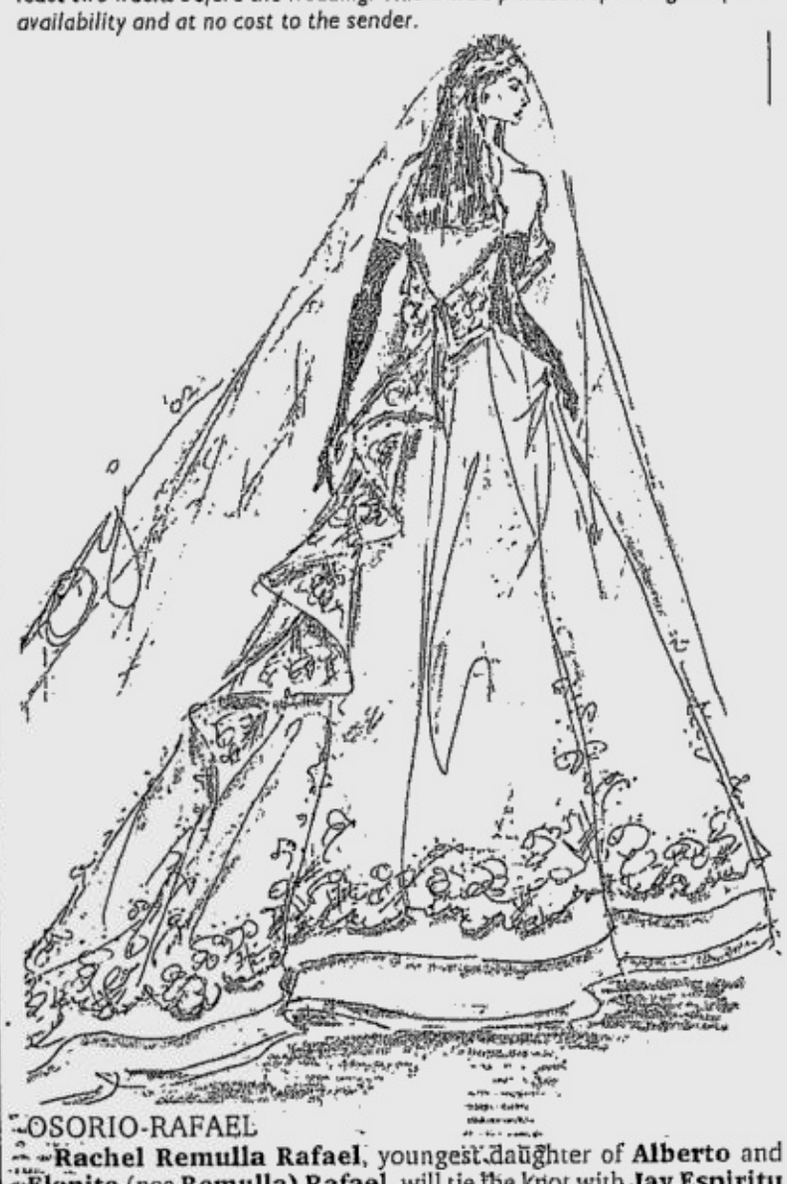

OSORIO-RAFAEL

Rachel Remulla Rafael, youngest daughter of **Alberto** and **Elenita** (nee **Remulla) Rafael**, will tie the knot with **Jay Espiritu Osorio**, only son of **Corazon Espiritu vda. de Osorio**, on Dec. 15 in a garden wedding and reception to be held at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The bride will wear an off-white neo-Victorian-inspired gown of Italian bridal satin done by **Ogi Gan**. The gored trumpet skirt is intricately appliquéd with pristine white-corded chantilly lace embellished with minute Austrian crystal beads and rhinestones. A burst of swirling ecru-and-white old Spanish lace ruffles add drama to the three-meter train. The low-back bodice has a two-layer collar of lace and French organdy matching with the hem detail. The 12-m veil is held by a family heirloom tiara.

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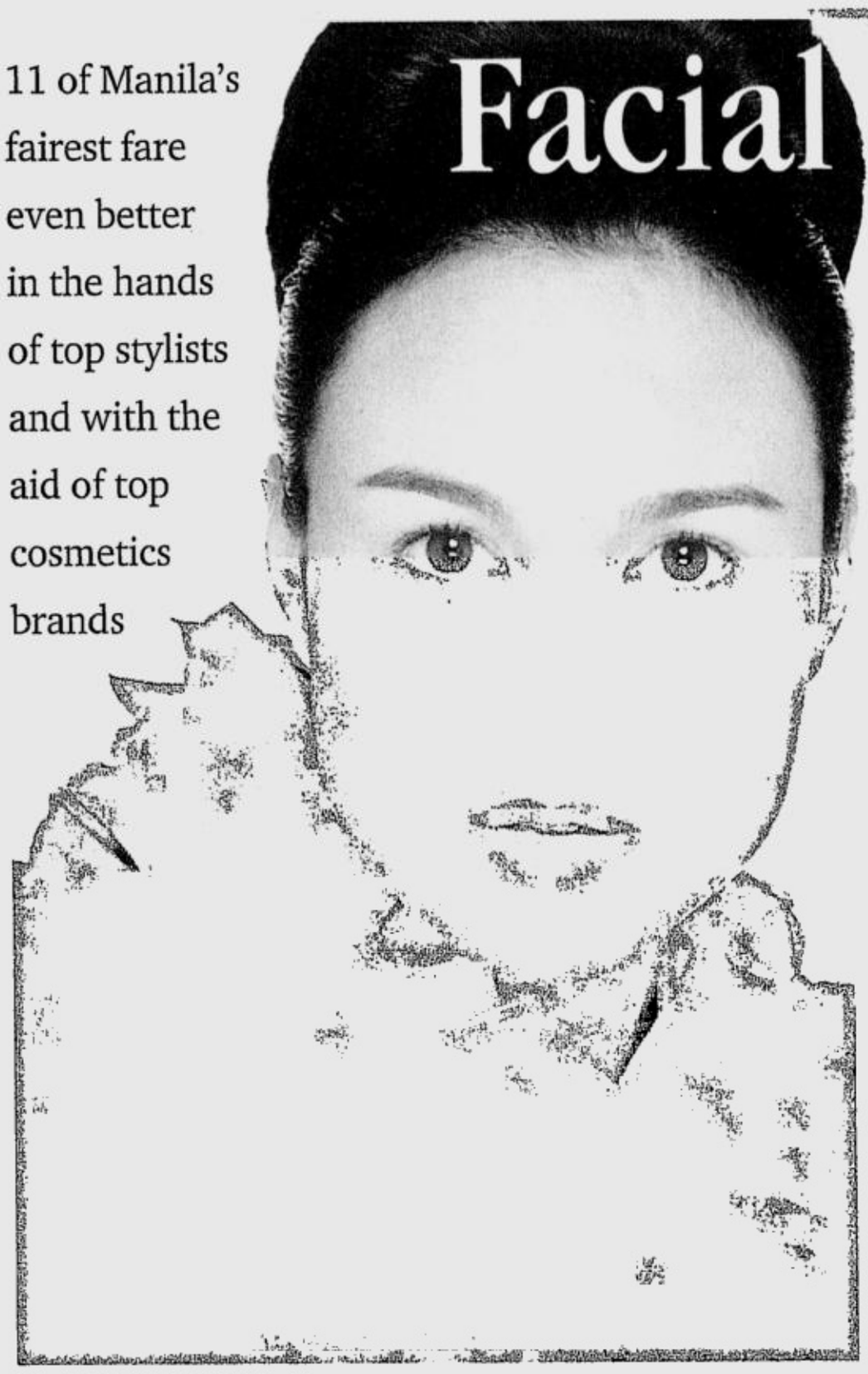
Facial attraction

11 of Manila's fairest fare even better in the hands of top stylists and with the aid of top cosmetics brands



GRETCHEN Barretto by Patrick Rosas for Christian Dior

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

WHO'S the fairest of them all? Even the wicked stepmother's mirror would be stumped at such a question given the bevy of beauties in "Faces of Attraction," a recent photo exhibit that featured 11 of Manila's loveliest women as captured by ace photographer Jun de Leon. The display, mounted on the Upper Level Walkway of Glorietta 1, capped off Rustan's annual cosmetics and toiletries festival.

Nowhere could you find the faces of actresses Gretchen Barretto, Dina Bonnevie and Angel Aquino together with those of celebrities and socialites such as Amanda Griffin, Rissa Samson, Isabel Roces, Phoemela Barranda, Bianca Araneta, Anna Shier, Plinky Recto and Tricia Panlilio-Cu Unjieng in one gathering.

Of course, no two women are alike for the same reason that no two stylists are alike. If anything, the exhibit also pitted the likes of Patrick Rosas, Eric Maningat, Henri Calayag, Juan Sarte and Fanny Serrano, to name a few, as they worked on a specific subject using a full range of Rustan's high-end brands.

"We gave them [stylists] freedom to do whatever they want," says Mara Seguerra, Rustan's business development manager for cosmetics. "We simply briefed them on what the particular brand epitomizes."

Gretchen, for instance, exuded drop-dead glamour in Christian Dior, while Angel, wearing a plumose headdress and gold eye shadow, projected her daring and funky side in MAC. The same approaches were repeated, but given fresher twists on Bianca and Anna, who wore Estee Lauder and Nars, respectively. Dina came across as sweet yet sophisticated, an extension perhaps of her image as an outspoken and intelligent actress.

Rissa projected not only beauty, but also health and vitality in keeping with Clarins' marketing thrust of using only natural ingre-

FACIAL/ p.E3

ANGEL Aquino by Fanny Serrano for MAC

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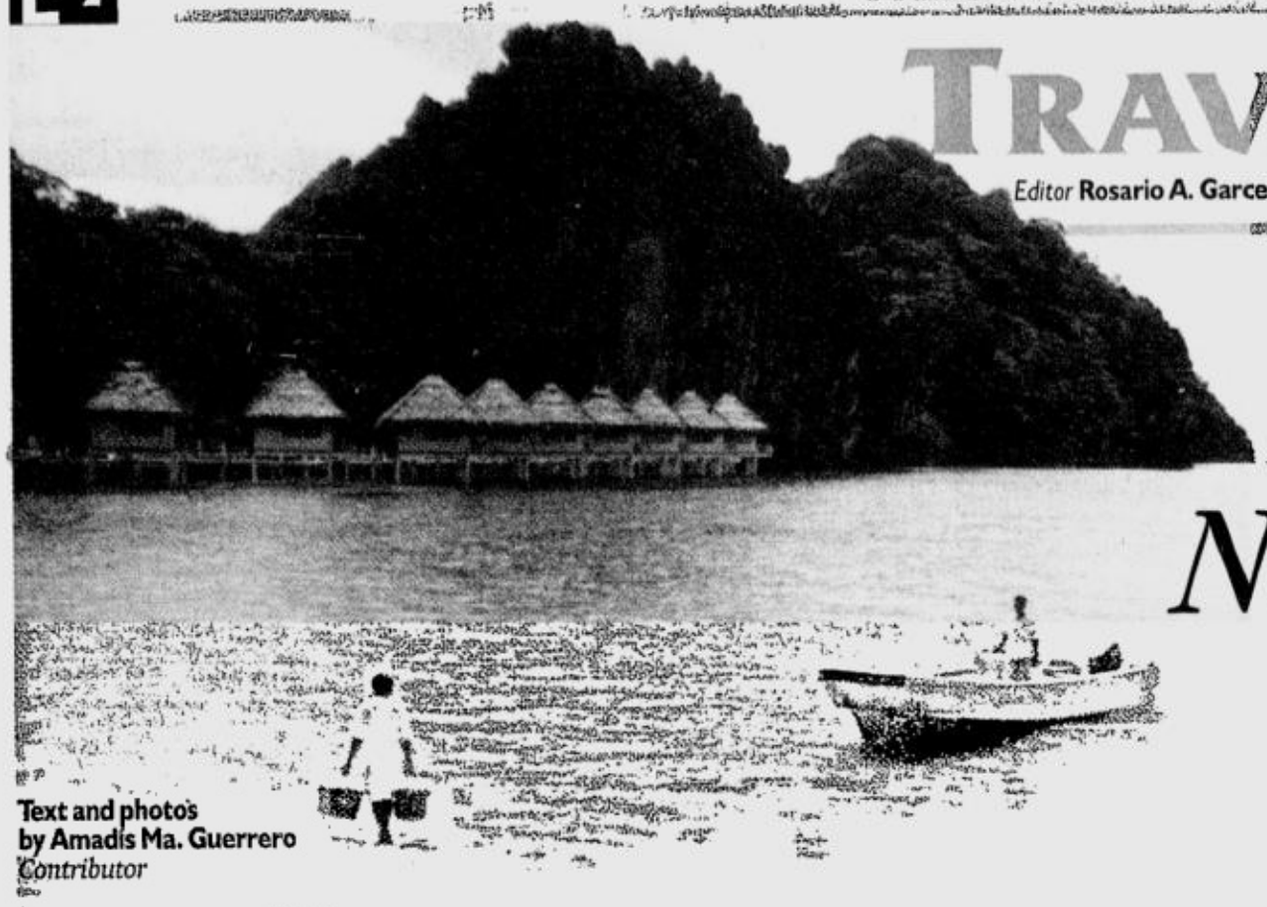
TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano



Nature thrives on Apulit

Text and photos by Amadis Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

A SANCTUARY for sea cows (dugong). A floating inn where you can view the flaming sunset over the bay and sing to the stars. And an image of St. Joseph, carved by Mother Nature, guarding the entrance of a cave 50 million years old.

These are among the features of fauna-friendly Apulit Island, home of the high-end Club Noah Isabelle, off Taytay in Northeastern Palawan.

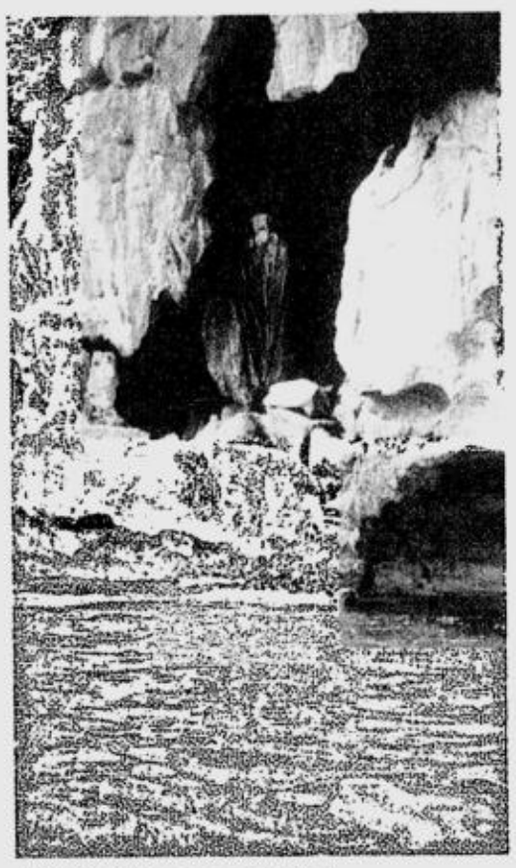
The resort is run on a concept-philosophy based on harmony with Nature and her flora and fauna.

Like nearby Bacuit Bay off El Nido, Taytay Bay is awash in scenic, tourist-drawing islands. Because of the kidnapping incidents, Navy men now provide security to the upscale resorts, and Korean-made gunboats patrol the area and other bodies of water. They are part of the Naval Task Group "Stingray."

The captain of two of these gunboats is the amiable and articulate Commander Mike Rodriguez, who invited our group to tour his vessel.

"Protecting the resorts is a nontraditional role for the Navy," Rodriguez observed, adding:

"Stingray is dedicated solely to our campaign against terrorism at sea. We have learned our lessons from Dos Palmas, and we don't want that repeated."



AWESOME image as sentinel

A different kind of ship is the Noah's Ark Floating Inn, a former dive yacht now permanently docked 100 meters from the west side of Apulit, backdropped by a 180-meter-high limestone cliff with wild yuka vegetation.

Noah's Ark—a name suggestive of the resort's resolve to protect fauna and marine life—has a captain, an engineer, a six-member crew, and six suites good for 18 persons. There is a videoke lounge and an upper deck where cocktails are served on request.

"We addressed the issue of living on a boat but open to the services of a resort," said Briccio (Ricky) Tamparong, vice president of Club Noah Isabelle owner Santa Isabelle Corp. "Here you can hold parties and sing without disturbing the resort guests."

Nearby is the remarkable St. Joseph Cave with its four big chambers that can, by Tamparong's reckoning, "drown" the Manila Cathedral. "Geologists estimate the cave to be 50 million years old," said briefing officer Liezl. "We can document this," added Tamparong.

There are natural formations that resemble members of the Holy Family, stalactites and stalagmites, and waterfalls. But what is awesome about the cave is the naturally formed, all-rock monument of St. Joseph (some might say Moses), which stands at the entrance of the cave. It is striking by day and spine-tingling at night (as when seen by flashlight as our boat sped by).

We—myself, friends René and Pete, the latter's two sons, teenager P-Jay and 3-year-old John Paul, and a family retainer called Bads—were on our way to North Cave (also known as the Honeymoon Cave because romantic dinners are held there on request of the guests).

For that evening Ricky, assisted by Liezl, had prepared cocktails and canapés for us at the open-air first chamber.

There was a splendid array of lighted candles, capped by a giant heart. This was an amazing feat of the boatman Arwin who, on slippered feet, climbed all over the chamber's sharp nooks, crannies and crevices and lighted candles there.

The waters around the resort teem with giant clam shells, sea urchins, jackfish, black-tip baby sharks, napoleons, sergeants major and many other fish big and small. "Our fish are very friendly," Liezl gushed.

One commitment of the resort to fauna and marine life is its Save-the-Dugong Program, implemented with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the funding agency Toba Aquarium of Japan, and other organizations.

"We have developed a sanctuary system for the marine and terrestrial environment focusing on the dugong," Tamparong said. "What we want to do is to keep them in the wilds, and we monitor their movements."

The mature male dugong grows to 600 kilos, and the female, 380 kilos. The fishing communities have been oriented on the importance of preserving the dugong and keeping them in the sea. There are three dugong stations near Taytay Bay, and in recent years seven sea cows have been rescued from fish traps. Unfortunately, one was slaughtered and another is listed as "missing." One, called Serena, was shipped to Japan, cared for there, and later released to the sea. The four others were cared for here, fed seaweed and then released upon maturity with much fanfare from the communities and the local officials.

"We paid the fishermen P1,000 for each dugong rescued," Tamparong said. But the program is not that effective because one dugong released can very well end up in another fishpen, he admitted.

The new proposal from Club Noah is to harvest seaweed as food for the dugong, and to pay the fishermen for planting this. In that way, it is hoped, the fishermen will no longer think of killing the dugong—"those lovely creatures whom many snorkelers want to see," Tamparong noted—because if they do, no one will buy their seaweed.

The wilds around the resort are a sanctuary for fauna. Here roam anteaters, peacocks, pheasants, otters, squirrels and mouse deer, among other denizens of the forest, while swiflets, owls, crows, herons, nido and tabon birds, and sea eagles fly around. (A migratory bird from China was pointed out to me.)

The tabon birds are endemic to this part of Palawan. "They are an endangered species," Tamparong said. "So here we take care of them. They are very unique, almost flightless. They lay their eggs deep in the sand, one meter deep. Their eggs are three times bigger than chicken eggs."

Come February, the pawikan (marine turtles), another endangered species, will start hatching. "We monitor the hatching," Tamparong reported. "We dig and build a wire mesh to keep away the predators. The hatchlings are maintained for one year until they become seaworthy."

The traveling pawikan have been monitored up to Indonesia, Guam and Okinawa. They can traverse 20,000 miles, or beyond the Pacific Ocean. It is said that after 15 years, if they survive, they return to the place of their birth.

"We tag the pawikan: If found, call this DENR number," Tampatong said.

Within the resort proper, the more common species have the run of the place. A flock of ducks sunbathe every morning, and cute brown and white rabbits scurry about, raising themselves on their hind legs to ask for food from the diners.

The Japanese co-owners of the resort are all Catholic converts, so at the peak of a nearby limestone cliff was constructed a giant cross that is lighted at night and serves as a lighthouse.

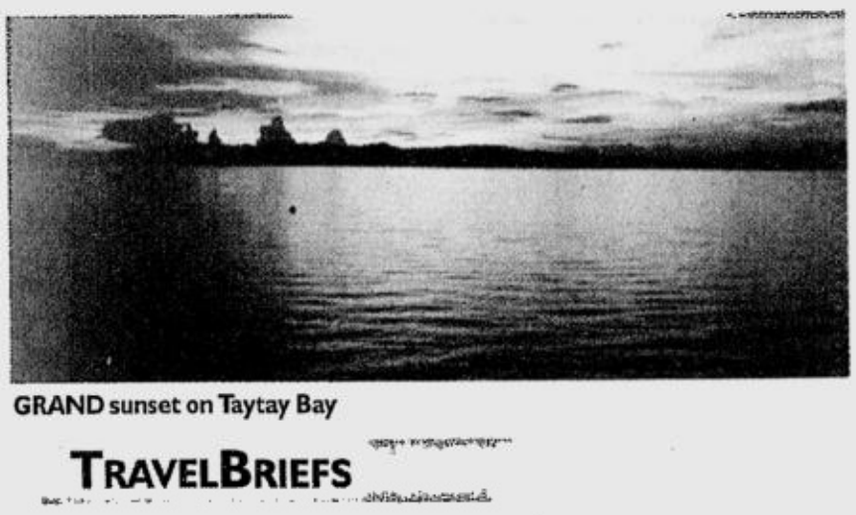
The name Club Noah has, of course, Biblical connotations. As Tamparong put it: "The Almighty said, You have seen, you have changed. I will reverse the process, meaning I will create a new order. Noah, you get all these species and come up with a new generation."

He warmed up to his subject: "There is a renewal, a change, a catharsis. This is what Club Noah provides. Here we have a platform to harmoniously coexist with nature; we look at the natural models of existence. You reflect, you meditate, so that when you go back to the big city you will become a better person, relieved of all stress."

To get to Apulit, take a plane (Seair, 19 seats) to Sandoval Airport in Taytay. Flight time is about an hour and 15 minutes, passing through the Southern Tagalog mainland and the Mindoro provinces.

A brief ride on board a resort jeepney follows, then a pumpboat ride through fascinating, mangroves-bracketed Tamisan River. The river leads to Taytay Bay.

Or you can be adventurous and take a SuperFerry to Puerto Princesa City. The bus ride to Taytay, 260 kilometers north, takes about five hours on generally good roads.



GRAND sunset on Taytay Bay

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IN KEEPING with its goal to help encourage more Filipinos to see the scenic spots and cultural sites in their own country, Causeway Tours is extending its "Pay 1, Free 1" price offers until Dec. 1.

The next trips scheduled are: the Mt. Data Experience of panoramic pine-covered mountains plus shopping in Baguio on Nov. 9-10; Bicolandia Tour of Our Lady of Peñafrancia Shrine, Mayon Volcano as seen from the Cagsawa Ruins, Daraga Church, and Hoyop-Hoyopan Caves, Nov. 15-17; Nueva Viscaya Rediscovery Tour of the Salinas Salt Springs, quaint old churches, vegetable-producing Kayapa Valley, plus accommodations at Bayombong's Villa Margarita Mountain Resort, Nov. 23-24; and Cagayan Valley Tour of Our Lady of Piat Shrine, the ancient Tumauini and San Pablo churches, Tuguegarao Cathedral, Callao Caves, and Calvary Hill overlooking the mighty Cagayan River, Nov. 29-Dec. 1.

For inquiries or reservations, call 851-7294, 853-8728 or 0916-3963963.

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WG&A SuperFerry invites everyone to check out its Sail-Away Holidays program, which is offering four travel packages to various destinations in the country:

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- School Sail-Away and Convention Onboard, the first for student groups traveling to a specific destination for familiarization, technical or educational purposes, and which includes the services of a professional lecturer for onboard sessions; the second for participants of conferences, seminars and team-building activities and which includes use of the William's Hall of SuperFerry 12 (executives and employees have the option of a half-day sightseeing or shopping trip).

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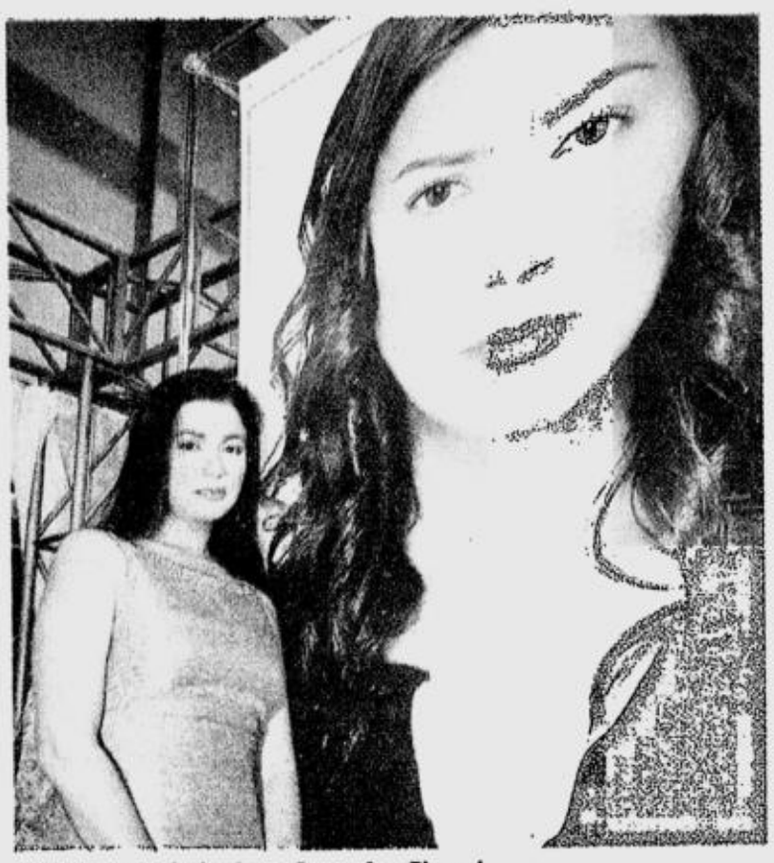


DINA Bonnevie by Juan Sarte for Chanel

PHOEMELA Barranda by Eric Maningat for Urban Decay

ISABEL Roces by Jay Lozada for Clinique

Facial attraction

From page E1

dients. Isabel and Plinky posed for the cameras in barely-there makeup for Clinique and Prescriptives, respectively, two brands known for catering to women with sensitive skin.

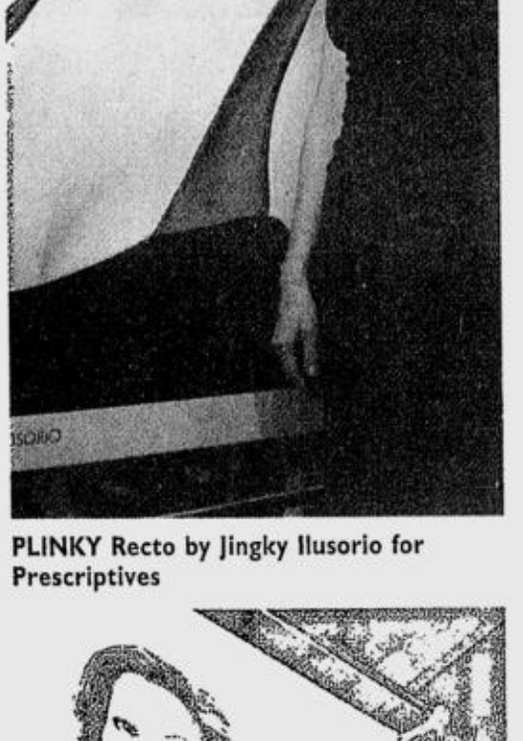
Certified icons

Over the past two months, De Leon provided Rustan's with a list of 30 or so women based not only on their looks, but also on their public persona. The number was later reduced to 24 before it was finally trimmed down to 11 based on his recommendations and the specific brand's preferences.

"Of course, beauty was and always will be

FACIAL / p.E4

PLINKY Recto by Jingky Ilusorio for Prescriptives



RISSA Samson by Krist Bansuelo for Clarins

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Per DTI-NCR permit No. 4310 series of 2002

AMANDA Griffin by Henri Calayag for Bobbi Brown

BIANCA Araneta by Jerome Chang for Estee Lauder

MARA Seguerra, Rustan's business development manager for cosmetics

Facial attraction

From page E3

our primary consideration," says Seguerra. "Aside from looking good on camera, the women should be certified style icons as well. How they managed themselves and their careers also figured in our deliberations."

Amanda and Anna, for instance, are more than just pretty faces. The former is into business, while the latter is said to be studying medicine. Dina and Angel, of course, have won several acting awards.

Interestingly, none of them, with the exception of Dina, a former Miss Magnolia, have won any beauty title. The mirror may not totally agree, but in Rustan's book these are the fairest of the fair most women look up to in the hope of becoming like them someday.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

TRICIA Panlilio-Cu Unjieng by Nina Ricci Alagao for Laura Mercier

ANNA Shier by Victor Palmos for Nars

World-class jewelry exhibit

WORLD-CLASS jewelry exhibited in this year's most prestigious international jewelry fairs is being shown to the Philippine public at the PowerPlant Mall fountain area until Nov. 19.

The best gold and silver jewelry collections exhibited at the Fiera di Vicenza will be presented by the Vicenza Trilogy, a group of six Philippine jewellers: 7 Castles, Ilios Jewellers, Jewelmer International, Mercelles, New Life Jewellery and Oro Y Plata. Philippine participation was supported by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Center for International Trade Exhibits and Missions (Citem).

The Fiera di Vicenza is an annual trilogy of events that gathers the world's best Jewelry makers, like Italy, Switzerland, France, Spain and Hong Kong, where the major fairs are also held. The three events—the VicenzaOro1 in January, the VicenzaOro2 in June, and Orogemma in September.

Since last year's Orogemma, a group of the Philippine jewellers has exhibited at the fairs with the help of DTI, Citem and Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier.

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Zonta bazaars to benefit underprivileged women and children

ZONTA Manila I, the first Zonta club to be established in the Philippines and in Asia, will hold two international bazaars this year. It aims to sustain its ongoing nutrition, health, livelihood and scholarship projects to advance the status of underprivileged women and children.

The first bazaar will be held at the ballroom of the Hotel InterContinental on Nov. 17, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. The second bazaar, which is co-sponsored with all Zonta clubs of Area I, will be held at the Makati Sports Club on Dec. 8, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

Proceeds will be devoted to sustain the Nutrition and Health Kiddie class in its Tondo center, as well as its medical and dental missions, scholarship, livelihood and skills training programs.

This year's bazaar will feature new products, both local and international, from 250 vendors. The bazaars will offer quality goods such as antiques, designer clothes and shoes, children's wear, bags and accessories, household linens, kitchen utensils, hardware implements, perfumes and essences, gourmet food products, precious and custom jewelry, handicrafts, a variety of local and imported fabrics, silver, novelty items, homemade delicacies, Christmas décor and gift items, paper products and religious works of art.

This year's special features are home décors from Italy, fragrances from France, wines and nuts from Europe, bed & bath products from the US, silk wear from India, and holiday clothes and accessories from Bangkok, Hong Kong and Korea.

The Bazaar Organizing Committee is headed by Gina Geraldez, president, and co-chairs Menchu Pascual and Arlene Gisbert. Other members of the committee are former presidents Baby Perez Sison, Loudette Tolosa and Nonie Basilio, Latin Basilio, Mel Reyes, Banjo Dumlao, Nida Lopez, Lulu Castaneda, Fely Umandap, Julie Jalbuena, Pilar Puno, Diana Franco, Evelyn Duran, Chittyrine Cometa, Gloria Sia and Anatess Oracion.

Lunch and snacks will be available throughout the day. All major credit cards will be accepted.

Call 888-2514, 850-9147 or 842-8342.

(SEATED from left) Nonie Basilio, Banjo Dumlao, Gina Padilla Geraldez, Baby Perez Sison and Menchu Pascual, Loudette Tolosa, Mel Reyes, Fely Umandap, Evelyn Duran, Julie Jalbuena, Lulu Castaneda, Nida Lopez, Arlene Gisbert and Lalin Basilio

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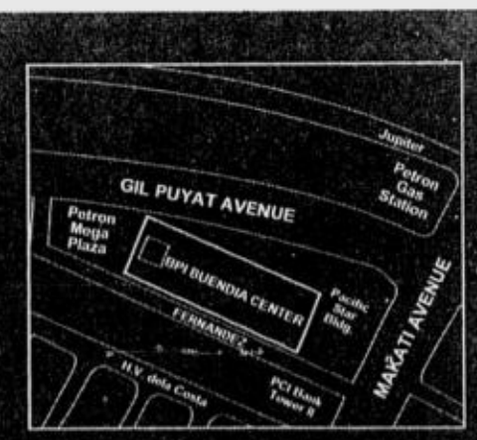

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-449, Series of 2002

STANDING, from left: Mary Ann Dy, Anne Gordon, Lin Olaño, Vicky Ablan, Paula Camille Bondoc, Rep. Vicky Locsin, Badette Roco, Louie Locsin, Julita Villareal; seated, Amaryllis Torres, Secretary Corazon Soliman, Gina de Venecia and Assunta de Rossi

Congressional spouses have fruitful 2002

THE YEAR 2002 has been a fruitful year for the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI).

Headed by president Gina de Venecia, the organization, which held its fourth general assembly at the House of Representatives recently, has finished the construction of The Haven in Gumaca, Quezon, and the 15th and last Regional Center for Women in Tagum, Davao City.

In March, CSFI sponsored "Kabuhayan 2002," a trade fair, at the SM Megatrade Hall 2. The three-day event headed by Ruth Padilla showcased the best products of each congressional district. The 1st Speaker's Cup, a golf tournament chaired by Margie Duavit in May, raised P3.3 million.

The congressional spouses also attended dinners given by President Macapagal-Arroyo, and hosted their own events like the tea party for Zhu Lin, wife of Chair Li Peng of the National People's Congress of China, at the Century Park Hotel. Madame Zhu Lin hosted a return tea party for CSFI members.

When the foundation marked The Haven's seventh anniversary, guest speaker Honeygirl de Leon, chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, pledged to donate an ambulance to provide emergency services for the clients of the facility. The foundation also received a P1.7 million donation from Phillip Morris Philippines for its various projects, specifically The Haven.

Former Rep. Danny Suarez and Naida Angping chaired the successful five-day "Race for Life" at the Manila Jockey Club, which raised additional funds for the construction of The Haven for Children, a temporary home for Metro Manila's streetchildren.

Construction of The Haven for Children in Muntinlupa City is now on its first phase while phase 2 of The Haven (National Center for Women) is on the final planning stage.

Foundation member Trina Biazon has asked her husband, Rep. Ruffy Biazon, to allocate P1.2 million from his Priority Development Assistance Fund for the improvement of the drainage system in The Haven for Children site.

The congressional spouses will cap year 2002 with the traditional gift-giving to different welfare institutions and a thanksgiving party for members of the Philippine National Police assigned at the House of Representatives.

Dinner-musicale marks 72nd birthday

LITA Alejar-Faustino recently celebrated her 72nd birthday with a garden dinner-musicale at her residence. She wore a red Carla Guiao creation, with white orchids on her hair given by Norma Benito. Her hair and makeup were done by Erddie de Lima of Head Camp. The evening started with an invocation delivered by eldest daughter Emy. Son Mon, one of the country's top musical arrangers and directors, was emcee.

Musical numbers were rendered by grandchildren Karla, 22, and Denise, 14, children of Faustino's son Ding and wife Elsa; Lillian Pickard, founder of Rhapsody Ladies Club; Emy; *apos* (children of son Ricky and wife Leah) Giana, Aarielle, David Joshua; Noemi Cuenca; the celebrator; the Rhapsody Ladies; Menchu Cariño and *balikbayan* Fong Balao; and Sesing Bautista and Viring Ongkeko.

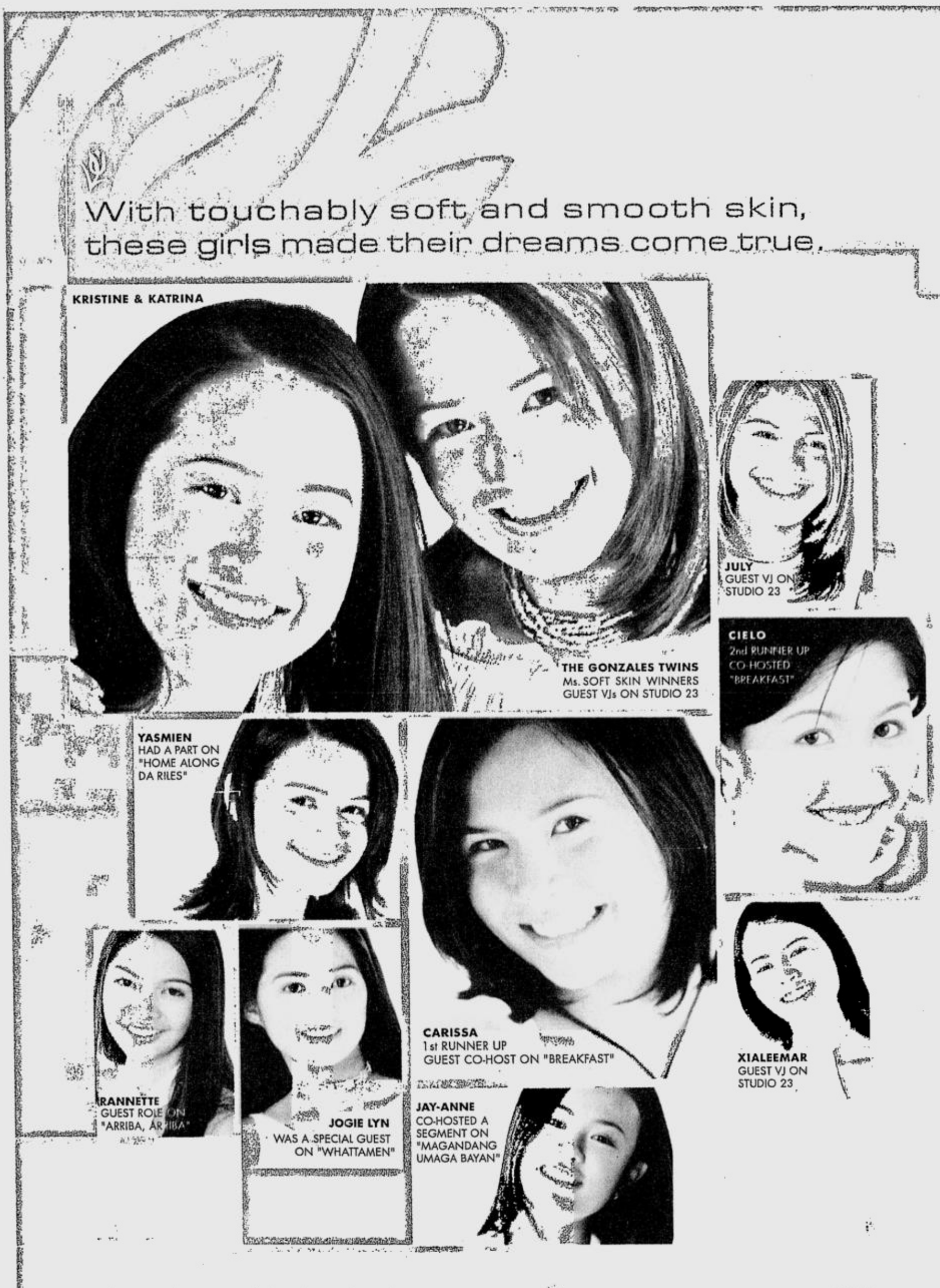
Guests included Rep. and Ms Mike Romero, Rep. Venice Agana, former Quezon City Mayor Adelina Rodriguez, Narda Camacho, customs collector Tony Bautista and Zeny Bonifacio, Doring and Peewee Ragasa, Dr. Ben and Linda Famador of Makati Medical Center, Dr. Delia Buñag Serge and Betty Ordoñez, Letty Jorman, Fred and Boy Alejar, Lydia Miciano, Chit Santos, Rhapsody Ladies (Lillian Pickard, Tessie Abrogar, Lody Mercado, Sonya Valencia, Noemi Cuenca, Telly Calma, Viring Ongkeko, Menchu Cariño and Tessie Mariano), Makati Inner Wheel ladies president Daisy Concepcion, lawyers Lew and Carol Llanillo, Rosita and Menchu Romero, Viring Grey, Aida Pagsibigan and Dorie Gomez, University of Santo Tomas Pharmacy graduates Carrie Fernandez and Mina Rustia, Catholic Women's League ladies Ginny Aquino, Zeny Bonifacio, Erlie Zenarosa, Josie Tuason, Myrna Cagigas, Letty Cortes, Lulu Villaflor, Lina Ricarte, Lydia Queaño with husband Silver, Olive Bustamante.

Other guests were Alex and Juaning Ramos, Nena Agustin, Rex and Fe Pastor, Baby and Ludy Pastor, Fred Bolisay, Patty Galias and daughter J.P.'s co-graduates from St. Paul-Manila—Titang Gonzales, Norma Benito with husband lawyer Henry B., friends from Calamba, Laguna, Lydia Alcasid, Clarita Elejorde, Norie Abary, Ollie Ustaris, *balikbayan* Balao and wife Marilyn, Sesing and Nanette Baustista, Mark Medina, Rett Cruz, Bunny Carmona and Cady Herrero.

Faustino made special mention of her youngest son Tats, musical director and arranger of "SOP, this year's recipient of the Star Award for Musical Variety Show.

LITA Faustino with Rep. Mike Romero and wife Menchu

With touchably soft and smooth skin, these girls made their dreams come true.



They've discovered for themselves how great touchably soft and smooth skin can be, as well as live out their fantasy of being a model, host or VJ among other things. And that's just the beginning, because you'll be seeing more of the Pond's Soft Skin Circle soon. Go ahead and experience for yourself the same soft and smooth skin with Pond's Facial Wash.

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SEARCH

THE EIGHT Supermodel finalists in their swimwear

Supermodel winner has 'global Asian' look

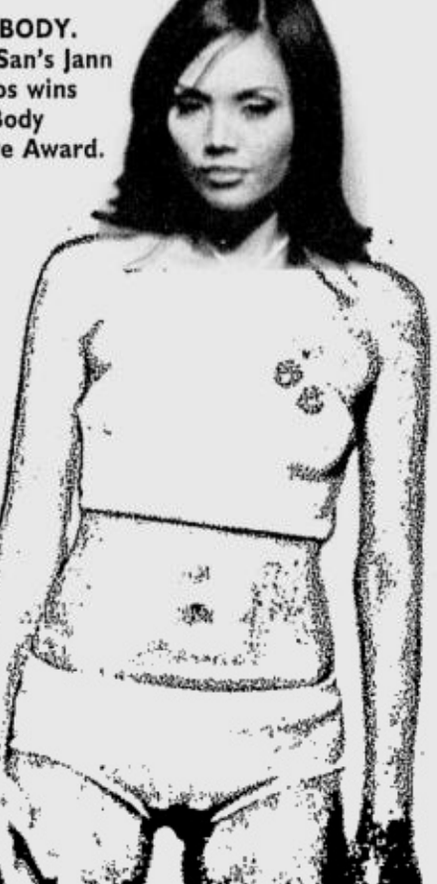
From page E8

Clarissa "Clare" Honrade became queen of the runway when she received the Runway Award and P5,000 worth of GCs for formal wear.

All special award winners received a P10,000 modeling contract with Cal Carrie's International.

As the Supermodel of the World-Philippines winner, Buckley will represent the country in the Supermodel of the World finals to be held in the Dominican Republic on Dec. 6. She will also receive a $250,000 contract from Ford Models Inc. NY, a leading international modeling agency; a P150,000 modeling contract from Cal Carrie's; jewelry worth P150,000 from Jewelmer International, and a round-trip ticket to the Dominican Republic with $1,000 pocket money.

IRRESISTIBLE. Fourteen-year-old Shan Apuad's smile does it for photographers, who judge her as Most Photogenic.



THE BODY. Gen San's Jann Santos wins the Body Active Award.

Happy girls' day

TEENAGE girls enjoyed a whole day of treats during MOD Girls' Day, which was recently held at the Youth Zone of the Shangri-la Plaza Mall. This was the start of an annual Girls' Day tradition spearheaded by MOD Girl, the teenage pullout section of MOD Weekly Magazine.

MOD presented the MOD Girl Achiever 2002 Award with special gifts from major sponsors: Sporty Girl Jayvee Agojo from Adidas and Community Girl Camille Villar from Godiva; Glam Girl Nancy Castiglione from Bratz; Star Girl Karylle and Whiz Girl Shaira Luna from Hazel Bishop.

Joey Espino of Runway Productions and Cal Carrie International Models Philippines presented a hip show featuring the latest teen wear by Shangri-La Youth Zone stores —Dickies, Bayo, Adidas, Defect, Gap, Old Navy and Banana Republic at the In Style Boutique, plus debutante gowns by Susie Bonaobra.

Aspiring cover girls, 13-19 years old, visited the MOD Girl cover test shot booth for a chance to be on the cover of MOD and MOD Girl.

MOD also treated the teen visitors to beauty makeovers using Hazel Bishop makeup and Urban Spa's pampering services.

Girls' Day also promoted the MOD Love the Children Christmas Fund Drive for the Molave Youth Center, a home for juvenile offenders.

Call 911-0254 or e-mail mod2002@email.com.

MOD editor Cynthia U. Santiago, Pamela Ayson, Michelle Robles, Marie Camille Theresa Abad, Christine Marianne Yam and MOD Girl editor Genevieve Andrada

Supermodel winner has 'global Asian' look

Text by Allison W. Lopez
Photos by Dennis Sabangan

SHE was exactly what they were looking for.

Almond-eyed, bronze-skinned, with waist-length jet black hair that swayed as she moved, and an attitude that said "I've got *it*," Supermodel of the World-Philippines winner Verns Buckley reminded people of a lovely gypsy girl with her dusky beauty and commanding presence on the ramp.

Buckley possessed what show director Joey Espino described as the "global Asian" face in demand these days. Her features were a mix of Chinese, Malay and Indian—indeed, the global Asian look.

A crowd favorite, the Cebuana Buckley was a finalist in the Supermodel competition in 1998. Then a 14-year-old neophyte, Verns joined her first modeling contest and had been modeling since.

CHARMING Che Ram wins the Posing Award.

As this year's winner, Buckley had the highest average score based on points she got in the four criteria: how a model projects on the runway, how photogenic she is, how she poses and how proportional her figure is.

The finals show, held at the Grand Plaza ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza, was fast yet smooth, moving on without any major hitches. One of the show's hosts, the bubbly MTV VJ and Cal Carrie model Anna Shier, held the 200-plus crowd's attention. The other hosts were somewhat jittery.

There was one oversight, though. The ballroom's ceiling, which had glass-tile designs, unwittingly reflected images of the models while changing clothes on the other side of the room, to the obvious delight of the male members of the audience.

Impressive crop

Although they lost the title to Buckley, the other finalists were also quite impressive on the catwalk and deserved the night's special awards.

Another crowd favorite, 14-year-old Graceyann "Shan" Apuad, won the Most Photogenic award, and received P5,000 worth of gift certificates for ladies apparel. She was chosen by the contest's photographers—Jun de Leon, Dominique James, Francis Abraham, John Mossige, Lee Llamas and Pancho Escaler.

The Posing award went to Sherlyn "Che" Ram, who won P5,000 worth of GCs for streetwear clothes, while Abbygale "Jann" Santos of General Santos City got the Body Active award for her slender figure. Santos received P5,000 worth of GCs for swimwear.

SUPERMODEL/ p.E7

Verns Buckley's features are a mix of Chinese, Malay and Indian

"I'VE GOT *IT*." Verns Buckley is the country's newest supermodel.

RUNWAY QUEEN. Clare Honrade bags the Runway Award.

JOB Market

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT AND NOTICE TO THE POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA

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2) NOTICE TO THE POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA

As part of its mandate to promote humane and orderly migration, IOM commenced with an immigrant application assistance service to potential immigrants to Canada. The comprehensive immigrant application assistance package for ***Skilled and Family Class immigrants*** includes: 1) *review of qualifications to determine if an applicant is likely to qualify for immigration to Canada;* 2) assistance in preparation of the application and collection of necessary documentation; *and upon approval* 3) *inexpensive travel arrangements to Canada under IOM's subsidized airline fares; and* 4) *other services.*

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- Willing to work on night schedule

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- Graduate of any 4 year course related in Tourism, International Studies, Hotel and Restaurant or any related courses
- At least 1 year experience in a travel agency, airline, hotel or any related experience
- Proficient with at least 2 reservation systems (Abacus, Amadeus, Galileo, PACERS)
- Proficient in use of e-mail with strong typing skills; knowledgeable in word processing software and Excel
- Basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills
- Willing to work on night schedule

100 Customer Service Representative - Cable TV Industry (CSR-CTV)
- Graduate of any college course (ECE, EE degree is an advantage)
- High technology or telecommunications, cable industry knowledge such as PST, DBS, and DirecTV, PBT, Cable Television, Retail network, and service upgrades is an advantage
- Experience in previous Cable TV company is also an advantage
- Works well under pressure to resolve issues, achieve goals and objectives
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- Motivated to serve customers through effective interaction
- Proficient in use of e-mail with strong typing skills; knowledgeable in word processing software and Excel; basic knowledge of web technology and the Internet
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills
- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks
- Possess excellent communication skills and willing to work on shifting schedules

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- Works well under pressure to resolve issues, achieve goals and objectives
- Motivated to serve customers through effective interaction
- Fluent in English and excellent business writing skills
- Excellent working attitude, flexible and has the ability to perform multi-tasks
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

As these are URGENT position vacancies, qualified applicants are requested to send their updated CV's to: SYKES ASIA, INC., 28F Robinson's Summit Building, Ayala Ave., Makati City or e-mail these to hrd@man.ph.sykes.com on or before November 11, 2002.

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HR exec shares the secrets of asking for a raise

By Ricky B. Garcia

ASKING your boss for a raise is the most difficult skill in assertive communication. What can be more challenging than to communicate the true value of your labor and persuade your boss to convert this into a paycheck that better reflects your true worth? Thus, acquiring this skill can be most useful and demonstrates your mastery of effective communication techniques.

Joann P. Hizon, department head of the human resource and administrative marketing of TSI–SMART, shares with people at work the secrets of successfully asking for a raise.

PaW: What are the moves to take if you think you deserve a raise?

HR Focus

Joann: First of all, you don't need to ask for a raise if your company has a formal performance appraisal system in place, which is conducted regularly. But if your company doesn't have one, here's my advice: don't ask for a raise if you have nothing to show for it, performance-wise. Your boss may not care if you have 10 kids to feed, siblings to send to school, or an ailing mother to take care of. It also doesn't matter that the *pan de sal* costs more or that gasoline prices have gone up three times this year. What matters to your boss is if you have something to show for it and that you're worth paying more money for.

PaW: What's the first thing you should do to show that you deserve a raise?

Joann: Document those achievements that impact the bottom line. It doesn't matter what you do, whether you're in a sales position which directly impacts the bottom line or in a support function. What matters is that you document achievements that had a positive impact on the company. Did you close that big account? Were you able to significantly negotiate for a lower price for a certain purchase? Did you come up with a cost-saving or income-generating idea? Were you able to play a role in mediating between some employees? Bring along your documented achievements together with your job description and key result areas or KRAs.

You also have to know what is the "going" salary rate for someone like you. You can get this from online jobsites or newspaper want ads or you can ask your external contacts. But be discreet! Remember to get comparisons from your industry, because salaries do vary across industries. Prepare your figures because you might be underpricing or overpricing yourself.

There are other things that you should know, for example, your company's policy on compensation. Does your department have a budget limits? Does your boss have the authority to decide unilaterally on salary increases or does he need to seek clearance from a higher authority? How's your company's financial state? Liquid or struggling? Get all this information beforehand or else you just might be wasting your time asking for a raise.

HIZON

PaW: What is the best way to explain to your boss why you deserve a raise? When is the best time to strike and ask for a raise?

Joann: Timing is everything! Ask him for an appointment preferably on his slow day. Mondays aren't usually a good time. If you're too timid to ask outright for an appointment (because you do have to state the purpose for the visit), you may need to hint at it at times when he praises you for a job well done. And then you may want to tell him on the side that you wish to discuss your other achievements with him.

Remember your goal is to get him to realize how important you are to him and the company—what you have done for them and what else you can do for them. Look at it from the company's perspective and base your presentation on their needs, not yours. Make him realize that they can't afford to lose you.

If unfortunately, he is unable to give you a raise or the amount you had wished for, don't give him an ultimatum or threaten to quit. It will only make you look bad in his eyes. You've just finished building yourself up, only to make yourself look like a money-grubbing mercenary.

Instead, if you can't get the money equivalent, ask him what benefits he can give. More paid time off? Loans? Additional medical benefits? Tuition assistance? Also, ask him what you can do to get that raise, or better yet, a promotion. Once you know, you can better prepare yourself for the next time you ask him for that raise.

Skill up with People at Work Live! Seminar Series

THE PEOPLE at Work Live! Seminar Series brings in November its Management Skills Series, to be conducted on Nov. 11, 12 and 13 at the Santiago Hall, Equtiable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave. Makati City, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

On Nov. 11, Alan Barker, chair of Strategic Consulting Services, will give a talk on "Effective Interpersonal Communication. He wil discuss the components of this critical competency and will teach how to effectively communicate with others.

On Nov. 12, Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc., will discuss "Coaching and Counselling Skills." This presentation will cover the difference between coaching and counselling, and when and when not to use them. She will also discuss the steps in conducting coaching and counselling, and its expected outcomes.

On Nov. 13, Tita Datu Puangco, president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., will talk about "Strategic Thinking Tools for Managers." The talk will provide an overview of the latest thinking in strategy management and implementation.

The November run is made possible by the companies who care for people at work: Inquirer's Job Market and Job Market Online, INQ7 Interactive Inc., ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom, Edsamail Philippines, Career Systems, Inc., Equitable PCI Bank, Adobo Interactive, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., Impact SCS, Single Search Philippines, Designer Blooms, Office1 Superstore and Mt. Carmel Printing Press.

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- *College Graduate of a business related course*
- *3 years managerial background in a multi-national restaurant chain*
- *Should have a strong marketing background*
- *Will report to the VP of operations*
- *Willing to travel extensively*

Restaurant Manager

- *College graduate of a business related course*
- *Must have experience as a restaurant manager of a multi-national chain*
- *Must be willing to relocate if needed*

Please send your resumé to
P.O. Box 511
Greenhills Post Office
1502 Metro Manila
or E-mail it to
uniquerestaurant@lycos.com

JOB OPENINGS

Prime Legacy (Manpower), Inc. is in urgent need of the following

- ❖ Accountants / Accounting Staff
- ❖ Credit And Collection Assistants
- ❖ Draftsmen with CAD experience
- ❖ Electricians
- ❖ IT Help Desk/Technical Support Engrs.
- ❖ General Clerks / Encoders
- ❖ Executive Secretaries / Admin. Assts.
- ❖ HR Staff / Training Assistants
- ❖ Customer Care Staff
- ❖ Marketing Assistants / Telemarketers
- ❖ Front Desk Officers / Receptionists
- ❖ Management Trainees/Shop Assistants
- ❖ Warehouse Helpers
- ❖ Collectors / Motorized Messengers
- ❖ Executive & Delivery Drivers

All interested applicants are enjoined to mail their resumes, transcripts of record, photocopies of NBI clearance and 2x2 pictures to Makati City Post Office (MCPO) P.O. Box No. 3160.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- BSBA - Accounting major
- Male or female, 23-30 years old
- With good scholastic record, and good moral character
- With at least 1 year experience related to accounting
- Honest and industrious
- Can keep confident matters

Please send letter of application with resumé, transcript of records and recent ID photo to:

PERSONNEL
SIBS PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC.
2nd Floor, NB Santos Bldg.
937 Quezon Avenue
Quezon City 1104

NOW HIRING

Qualified applicants with the ability to offer various products for a leading financial institution. This is the opportunity for you to show your potential. Maximize your talents of selling on the phone. Qualified applicants will be given the position of:

Telesales Representative

Applicants must have the following qualifications:

- Finished at least two (2) years of college
- Experience in Customer Service/Sales will be an added advantage (Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply)
- Pro-active and goal oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Good customer service skills
- Basic computer knowledge
- Works well under pressure
- Willing to work early night shifts and weekends only

Chosen applicants will receive an attractive compensation package together with the promise of being trained to work with one of the world's leading banks using the latest technology in a first class call center environment.

Interested applicants may attend any one of our Career Briefings scheduled on the following dates:

Monday	November 4, 2002	10:00 am 1:00 pm
Tuesday	November 5, 2002	10:00 am 1:00 pm

Please bring your latest resumé, transcript of records, and a 2x2 picture and proceed to

17/F Citibank Square
No. 1 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City
Libis, Quezon City

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Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA cor. Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong

The Little Gym Alabang
Level 3, Festival Supermall
Filinvest Corporate City
Alabang, Muntinlupa

The Little Gym Makati
Level 1, HatchAsia GlobalCity Ctr
31st St. cor.2nd Ave., E-Square
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

The Little Gym East Quezon City
2nd Floor, Shoppersville
355 Katipunan Avenue
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

The Little Gym® is a franchised children's fitness and development center where motor development, recreational gymnastics, sports skills development, and martial arts classes are provided in a safe non-competitive environment. The curriculum-based physical, social and intellectual development programs are designed by child development experts in the United States.

Our organization is growing fast, and we need help from more hard-working people like the talents we already have. We offer a competitive package for the most qualified applicants. All our full-time staff have health insurance benefits. Our employees who've been with us longer enjoy other benefits.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
For Immediate Hiring

We are looking for college degree holders between 21 and 40 years old who are naturally thorough and detail-oriented; speak English fluently and have excellent communication skills; have a professional work ethic; are habitually punctual, friendly, and enjoy being with kids. Those with backgrounds or experience in accounting, office management, library science or marketing are preferred. Those who are punctuality-challenged and unenthusiastic need not apply.

If you're the one we're looking for, please send your application letter, resumé & passport-sized photo BY MAIL to any of our branches before November 08, 2002. In your letter, please indicate the POSITION for which you are applying.

Only the most qualified will be called in for interviews. Applications in person will not be entertained at this time.

DATAMD
an spi technologies company

DataMD International, Inc. is SPI's entryway into the healthcare documentation solutions marketplace. We pride ourselves in continuously meeting and exceeding US industry defined quality standards because of our high service levels, and the continuous training and education of our people.

Our VISION is to be a strategic ally of choice in providing offshore healthcare business process outsourcing for the US and North American market.

As DataMD International, Inc. continues to deliver high value-added medical transcription services for the U.S. medical industry, we need highly competent MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS / TRAINEES who will be responsible for transcribing and interpreting dictation by physicians and other healthcare providers.

We are PLEASED to invite highly qualified people to explore career opportunities with us as we continue to grow and fulfill our commitment to be the leader in the medical transcription market.

Medical Transcriptionists/Trainees (CODE: MT/MTT*)*

- Graduates of Nursing, Physical Therapy, Medical Technology or other allied health courses.
- With at least a year of experience in medical transcription, hospitals or other similar industries.
- Ability to transcribe at least 40 wpm.
- Excellent hearing acuity and listening skills.
- Ability to operate word processing equipment, computers, dictation and transcription equipment.
- Knowledgeable in basic computer operations and internet applications.
- Must possess above average comprehension, problem solving and analytical skills.
- Must possess good command of English in both oral and written communication.
- With above average scholastic records.
- New graduates are welcome to apply.*

A competitive compensation and benefits package awaits successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to send or e-mail their résumé with recent photo, and photocopy of transcript of records to:

SPI TECHNOLOGIES, INC.
RECRUITMENT OFFICE
2nd floor Skyfreight Bldg. C NAIA Avenue
corner PASCOR Drive, Parañaque City 1700
E-mail: r.araga@spitech.com
http://www.spitech.com

**Please indicate position code on the envelope*

URGENT HIRING

1.0 SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT & SECURITY OFFICER

- At least 2 years of related experience in the field of Health, Safety & Environment in an industrial setting.
- Preferably with DOLE Safety Practitioner and/or DENR PCO Accreditation.
- Preferably licensed Mechanical Engineer, Electrical Engineer or Chemical Engineer

2.0 ELECTRICAL/INSTRUMENTATION & CONTROL SPECIALIST

- At least 2 years of related experience in the field of Electrical/Instrumentation & Control in an industrial setting.
- Preferably with knowledge in PLC and can interpret drawings/diagrams.
- Preferably a graduate of BS Electrical Engineering or BS Electronics & Communication Engineering.

NOTE: Willing to accept provincial assignment

Please send application letter with detailed resumé, transcript of records, 2x2 photo no later than November 8, 2002.

Human Resource & Admin Department
P.O. Box No. 1746
Makati City

Kodak

KODAK Philippines, Ltd. is the World's Leader in Imaging. As a provider of high value-added services, and both traditional and digital products and systems, Kodak excels not only in preserving memories but in recording, storing, transmitting and delivering image outputs.

Kodak is now inviting dynamic people to join their expanding organization.

Project Supervisor

Manages overall activities and operations of the assigned project with the objective of attaining profitable store and laboratory operations while delivering desired service levels as agreed with partners and customers. Also responsible for establishing good working relationship with key people in the project.

- Analytical and strategic thinker
- Excellent communication skills and can deal with all levels/positions
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs and general knowledge of computer hardware
- Responsible, team player, attention to detail and can work well under pressure
- Must have a good knowledge of project management and territory management in a service and operations environment
- Can implement programs/strategies with less supervision - decision maker
- Proactive, aggressive and innovative
- Can motivate a large team
- Process oriented and drives continuous improvement

Field Group Leader

Responsible for the overall operations in a specific territory to which he/she will be assigned. Provides leadership to printers/operators in his/her area of responsibility.

Qualifications:

- College graduate with technical background
- With 2-3 years work experience preferably from a service/manufacturing company
- Not more than 30 years old
- Preferably with frontline supervisory experience i.e. foreman, team leader, etc.
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs, general knowledge of computer hardware
- Must have a good knowledge of the operations

Admin Assistant

Performs all administrative work in the department which includes preparation of sales documents, billings, inventories, department purchases, production reports, personnel activities, and other related activities.

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- With 1-2 years administrative work
- Not more than 25 years old
- Well versed in business communications - letter and inter-office memo preparation
- Secretarial experience is an advantage

Roving Operator

Responsible for monitoring and maintaining the production output quality in all branches. Ensures proper and strict implementation of systems and procedures in equipment maintenance and operation. Fills the gap on manning level in all branches.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of at least two-year vocational course
- With 1-2 years technical work experience preferably from a service/manufacturing company
- Not more than 25 years old
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs, general knowledge of computer hardware
- Exposure to imaging/printing equipment is an advantage

Minilab Operator

Responsible for the day-to-day activities in the assigned branch and performs over-all lab optimal operations. Provides customers with quality prints and services. Serves as role model to other operators/printers, newly hired and in other stores.

Qualifications:

- Graduate of at least a two-year vocational technical course
- with 0-1 year work experience preferably from a service/manufacturing company
- Not more than 25 years old
- Computer proficient - all windows based and some graphics programs, general knowledge of computer hardware

Department Messenger

Provides immediate assistance to the operations department in the head office and all branches in its pick-up, delivery, courier and other field service requirements.

Qualifications:

- At least graduate of a two-year vocational technical course
- Not more than 25 years old
- Preferably with experience in messengerial work

If you believe you can take the challenge, send your comprehensive resumé and transcript of records and a 2x2 Kodak picture to:

KODAK PHILIPPINES, LTD.
Human Resources Department
2247 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City

Deadline for submission of applications will be on November 8, 2002.

We will match your enthusiasm and drive with above industry benefits, incentives and training opportunities.

THE WORLD BANK
World Bank Office Manila

POSITION TITLE: Social Development Specialist (Participation)

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) seeks a candidate with strong operational experience in community-driven development (CDD), social accountability and civic engagement. The position will be a fixed-term appointment for three years, with a one year probation. It will be subject to local recruitment and offers an opportunity to work on development challenges facing the Philippines in a global development organization. Based in Manila, the selected canddiate is expected to travel frequently within the country.

She/He will report to the Sector Coordinator, Environment and Social Development Unit, WBOM, and would have the following major duties and responsibilities.

- **Mainstreaming Stakeholder Participation.** Implement and empowerment objective of the Country Assistance Strategy by mainstreaming participation, especially of the poor and civil society, in Bank-financed projects, analytical work and policy dialogue; screen projects in the pipeline to ensure that participatory approaches are integrated in design o finvestment operations; track ongoing projects to ensure that participatory approaches are being implemented, and, mobilize and manage resources for work on CDD, social accountability and civic engagement.
- **Supporting Project Development and Implementation.** Participate in cross-sectoral task teams to design, supervise and evaluate projects which pay attention to social dimensions of development; assist task teams in drafting terms of reference for CDD, social accountability and civic engagement activities, and supervise implementation of these activities; and, advise task teams in identifying and working with appropriate civil society partners for project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- **Enhancing Knowledge and Capacities for Participation.** Document and/or disseminate good practices; conduct knowledge management activities to enhance civil society's understanding of the Bank's operations and policies; and design and support capacity building efforts for development partners.

Selection Criteria:

- Master's degree or higher in anthropology, sociology or other relevant social science.
- Strong operational background and analytical skills, with at least 7 years of relevant professional experience. Hands-on work in designing, managing and evaluating CDD projects is desirable.
- Working knowledge of relevant policies, procedures, practices and programs in the Philippines.
- Effective oral and written communication skills in English and Tagalog, and proficient computer skills.
- Strong interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work in multi-disciplinary teams.
- Proven ability to deal effectively with development partners.
- Previous work experience with donor agencies is desirable.

Please send your application letter, with a cirriculum vitaé, containing of work experience, academic records, a recent photograph, references (at least three names with full contact details) **not later than November 11, 2002. Applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to:**

The Resource Management Officer
Box 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor Building B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

How to stay sane in times of uncertainty

By Teresa Reyes Tunay
Illustration by Rolando Reyes

WHAT'S happening?

This seems to be the puzzle of the moment for every person somehow concerned about our country, the Philippines. In addition to the terrorism crisis arjsing from the bombings, which have become more complicated over the months, we are fed daily information about graft and corruption in government and other things that altogether spell i-n-s-t-a-b-i-l-i-t-y for us ordinary citizens. Nothing stays the same; situations change so fast we wouldn't be surprised if what we're saying now won't be true anymore by the time this issue comes off the press.

1 We depend much on mass media to keep ourselves informed, but we do not always get objective reporting, much less the whole truth, from them.

2 Because of uncertainty, we can interpret any situation in our country as aggravating, thus adding to our anxieties. For example, unexpected power failures are seen as sabotage.

3 Rallies and demonstrations, besides further clogging Metro Manila's vehicular traffic, are perceived as threats to peace and order, and proofs not only of the people's growing concern for politics but also of trouble brewing in the country's halls of power.

4 And because our country has become so "high tech"—with "even sidewalk vendors doing business via cell phones"—"texting" has been used by many to spread alarming messages that add to our worries.

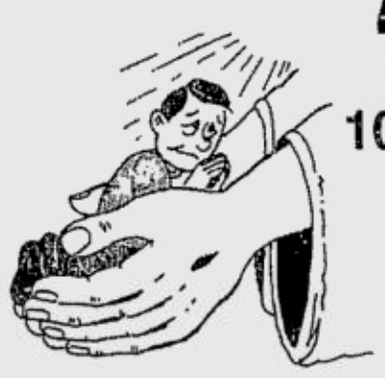
5 Some (overanxious) people have come to think it's useless planning for the future when everything is so uncertain. Not a few have also seriously considered migrating to supposedly "superior" countries to escape possible chaos and to continue their life of ease.

6 How do these developments affect our daily life? We who work at ordinary jobs and live from day to day without any means of escape? We little people with little voices—how do we think and act under circumstances over which we have zero control?

8 We may not be politicians who can shape the future of the country with one decisive stroke of a pen, but we are still in a position to create the best possible present we can.

9 Each day, we resolve to live as children of God would live: obeying His commandments, loving one another as He has loved us, trusting in His care and believing that He will always be there whenever we call upon Him.

7 We do what we can where we can exercise the greatest control: within ourselves, with our families, in our homes. We live clean. At all costs, we strive to be honest, industrious, fair, kind, faithful, forgiving and God-fearing.



10 Crises, wars, disasters and pestilence have always been present in man's history—just as peace, abundance, progress, moments of glory and triumphs have. And always, those who survive unscathed are those who have great faith in goodness.

A commercial & Packaging Printing Company
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SALES ACCOUNT MANAGER

Graduate of any related course, with vast contacts and has experience in dealing with Ad Agencies. Must be computer literate, hardworking, highly personable and honest.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Industrial Engineering, Mass Communication and B.S. Psychology graduate, not over 25 years old, computer literate, can work under minimum supervision.

MAINTENANCE STAFF

Male, 28-35 years old; graduate of any vocational course in Electrical or Mechanical field; must be flexible; has working knowledge in air-con technology and automotive; with general knowledge in building maintenance (electrical & mechanical).

SENIOR PRESSMAN

FOR SHEETFED MACHINE
Age 28-35 years old; with more than 4 years experience as Senior Pressman; proficiency in Heidelberg Offset Machine is preferred but not necessary.

2275 P. Burgos St., Pasay City
Tel. Nos. 831-9668 / 831-0429 / 831-7549

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

PIER OPERATIONS/ MAINTENANCE & REPAIR OFFICER

- Male, not more than 30 years old; College graduate.
- Knowledge in MS Word, Excel.
- Good command of English language both oral and written.
- Knowledge in handling containers and equipments, maintenance and repair (M&R) survey, reports on damages, container conditions, etc.
- Experience in pier operations an advantage. Willing to work overtime.

Apply at: **1501 Federal Tower, Dasmariñas Street, Binondo, Manila from 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM, Monday - Thursday. Bring bio-data with one latest 2x2 picture.**

One (1) SALES SPECIALIST

- Graduate of Physics/Nursing/Pre-med/Biology/Physics

The above positions should possess the following:

- 25-30 years old
- Experience in Sales/Marketing for at least 2 years
- Good communication skills and should be customer-oriented
- Pleasing and dynamic personality
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- Product to handle: Ophthalmic Laser Systems & Equipments

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- Candidate must be a graduate of Electrical or Computer Engineering
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We offer above industry-standard compensation package.

Send your resumé with picture personally or by e-mail at:

KITAL PHILIPPINES CORP.
Unit 607, Taipan Place
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City
E-mail: kital@kital.com.ph

De La Salle University– Professional Schools, Inc.
College of Computer Studies

We are in need of qualified professional, who is eager to learn and are self-motivated, to fulfill the position:

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR
Assigned to ensure overall network viability and maintenance, provisioning of life, Internet (mail, web browsing, etc.), and printing services. This includes: fault management, and security management, accounting management, performance management, and security management.
Qualifications: Degree holder of BS ECE, Computer Science or computer engineering graduate; have at least 3 years progressive experience in Local Area Networking (LAN) and with experience in UNIX, Novell and NT operating system, firewall software configuration and maintenance, E-mail administration, and Internet operations.

If you are interested, please submit an application letter, ID picture (1 copy), Curriculum Vitae, and Transcript of Records. Please address the required documents to:

De La Salle University – Professional Schools Inc.
Human Resources Office
Rm. 213 Gokongwei Building
2401 Taft Avenue, 1004 Manila
Email: delarosad@dlsu.edu.ph

COUNTRY BANKERS INSURANCE CORPORATION, a non-life insurance company that has continued to enjoy steady growth over the past 42 years, is looking for an

AUDIT STAFF

Who will be responsible for :
- *Auditing payables of the Company*
- *Auditing receivables of the Company*
- *Auditing accounts of the Company*
- *Performance of other Auditing – related functions*

Applicant must have :
- ✓ *a degree in Bachelor of Accountancy*
- ✓ *at least one year relevant experience*
- ✓ *above-average oral and written communication skills*
- ✓ *good work ethics*

Interested parties may submit their resume not later than November 29, 2002 to :
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
COUNTRY BANKERS INSURANCE CORPORATION
648 J.M. KALAW STREET, ERMITA, MANILA
mincorda@yahoo.com

NEW YORK BASED COMPANY

Account Officers (U.S. Projects)

- Female, 24-29 years old, engaging personality
- Speaks good English
- Basic computer & Internet knowledge
- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo, La Salle – A.B. Business Ad, Economics, English, Masscom
- Willing to work shifts (Phil Time/US Time)

Telemarketers

- Female, 20 to 27 years old, pleasant
- Good communication skills
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge

Mail your résumé with picture at:
P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati City
Or e-mail marcia@nytelecon.com

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JOB MARKET

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A DOCUMENT PROCESSING CENTER SERVICING GLOBAL CLIENTS INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:

PROOFREADERS

- male or female, college graduate from reputable schools; preferably English or Literature majors
- excellent oral and written English
- highly computer literate
- willing to work 6 days a week, even during holidays, and be assigned to different shifts
- with experience in proof reading and editing of documents

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2 x 2 picture, and other credentials to (please indicate current salary):

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati City

Senior Programmers

A company servicing international offices immediately requires Senior Programmers. The Programmers will work with the global team in supporting the firm's applications systems as well as developing and maintaining windows/browser based applications.

Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science or related degree
- At least 3 years programming experience in MS Visual Basic/MS SQL Server/ASP pages/Scripting languages
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Able to learn and adapt quickly
- Flexible and willing to work long hours
- Able to work closely with others in a team environment
- Willing to travel
- Under 35 years of age and in good health

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2 x 2 picture and other credentials to (please indicate current salary):

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor Pacific Star Bldg.,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner Makati Ave., Makati City
(Please indicate present salary)

AUSTRALIA, CANADA, NEW ZEALAND & UNITED KINGDOM*

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* For those who have relatives working in United Kingdom

Seminars are held every SATURDAY, 9am & 2 pm.
Bring with you an updated resume for evaluation. Avail of our Assessment and Consultation after the Seminar.
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Tel Nos.: 813 3000 loc. 501, 502 or 503
Fax No.: 818 1055 Email: addpro@pacific.net.ph

We are an immigration services company not a placement agency

IMMEDIATE HIRING IN AYALA OFFICE

Manila Bank Building
Suite 508, 5th Floor
6772 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
(Beside BPI Building corner Paseo de Roxas and Ayala Avenue)

TO OCCUPY VARIOUS POSITIONS IN THE COMPANY.

IF YOU ARE:

- Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- College graduates of at least 4 years course from reputable schools and universities
- Individuals who have a good command of English and Filipino language
- Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once

THEN YOU DESERVE:

- ✓ A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE AVERAGE INCOME
- ✓ Company sponsored trainings
- ✓ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system

See us in your proper business attire with 2 (2x2) ID pictures, and your comprehensive resumé on **November 4, 5, 6** and **7** (Monday to Thursday) from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Bring extra ID and the clipping of this ad.

A LEADING LAW FIRM INVITES APPLICANTS FOR THE POSITION OF:

LEGAL SECRETARY

- Female, not more than 30 years of age
- Computer literate, with excellent typing speed
- Disciplined, responsible, hardworking, systematic, and organized
- With good written and oral communication skills
- Preferably with related experience

Qualified applicants may submit their resumé, 2x2 picture, and other credentials to:

THE OFFICE MANAGER
11th Floor, Pacific Star Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Makati Avenue
Makati City

PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH AND EVALUATION

A prime mover of the pre-need industry seeks a highly competent individual to fill in the position of

METHODS & PROCEDURES SECTION HEAD

The Methods and Procedures Section Head is responsible for the corporate-wide documentation of business processes and issuance of Quality System manuals. He is tasked to develop, issue, maintain and control critical business processes, as well as operations manual of all work units of the company including a document and data control system.

To qualify, the candidate should have the following qualifications:

- Must be knowledgeable in Business Process Reengineering, Six Sigma, ISO
- Must have working knowledge in laying down financial or accounting processes
- Training skills necessary
- Computer literate with proficiency in MS Excel, Word, Powerpoint
- Degree holder in Industrial Engineering, Management or Accounting, with post graduate studies preferred

Send you application to all-aces@platinumplans.com or executive_search@platinumplans.com. You may also fax it to 637-2821 or call us at 637-2820.

We are a leader in the segment of the packaged food business. We are in with our growth thrust, we are looking for:

VAN SALESMEN

- To be assigned to handle ex-truck selling in Metro Manila
- Will undergo training before permanent territorial assignment

Applicants must:

- be 20 to 25 years old, male
- be graduates of any business course
- have good oral and written communication skills;
- have good human relations skills;
- have valid professional Driver's License

ARTIST / MARKETING ASSISTANT

- To visualize and finalize artworks of advertizing collaterals and packaging designs
- To design and mount store decors and displays
- Assist in other marketing operations functions

Applicants must:

- be graduates of Commercial Arts or similar course; and
- be 20-24 years old

If you think you are qualified for the above positions, please mail or forward your resumé and transcript of records to:

LEMON SQUARE BAKERY TREATS
Lemon Square Bldg., 1199 Edsa Muñoz, Quezon City
Tel. No. 374-6661 to 62

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING BY A DYNAMIC CONTRACTING COMPANY FOR ARCHITECTURAL INTERIORS & CONTRACT FURNITURE MANUFACTURING

BUSINESS DEV'T. OFFICER - Male/Female; 25-35 years old; Excellent in both oral and written communications; Exceptional leadership qualities, resourceful and a team player; computer literate; Graduate of Business Administration (Management, Marketing, Advertising), preferably with MBA degree or units; to develop markets and new accounts; to conduct market research, establish market trends and preferences; oversee the movements of the market and competitive activities; experience in construction industry is an advantage.

AUTOCAD OPERATOR - Male/Female, 25-30 years old; B.S. Architecture/Interior Design Graduate; very good in computer rendering and presentations, 3D presentations, etc.

SHOP FABRICATION SUPERVISOR - Male, 25-30 years old. Graduate of Civil Engineering and/or Architecture; Experience in Plant/Shop fabrication of contract furnitures made of wood, metal, stone, fiberglass, plastic, etc., with strong leadership qualities; can work under pressure.

ACCOUNTING CLERK - Male/female, 23-30 years old; Accounting graduate; computer literate; work experience in a construction company is an advantage.

Please fax or hand carry your resumé with latest photo or apply personally at # 11 Alfonso St. cor. V. Ignacio Blvd. (near Floodway), Rosario, Pasig City,
Tel. No. 656-0103 / 6565735 Fax No. 656-7528

Look for Ms. Dorothy Gollpatan

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!!!

If you are...

- ✓ Interested in developing people and enhancing performance;
- ✓ Prepared to provide facilitated sessions, deliver on-time, organizationally relevant initiatives;
- ✓ Knowledgeable in corporate education or education concepts;
- ✓ Creative and technically savvy; and,
- ✓ A risk-taker possessing a big picture perspective

THEN YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN A CAREER WITH US!!

And...
If you also possess...
Excellent written and oral communication skills
A pleasing and adaptive personality
A commitment to give your best at all times...

THEN WE ARE INTERESTED IN HAVING YOU AS OUR PERFORMANCE PARTNER!!!

Send your resumé with a passport-sized picture to:

Katherine Monserate
3/F CityState Centre,
709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City

Our CHILDREN are our future.
WANTED:

Mothers with young children (ages 0 to 12 years old)

We are a company that gives you the opportunity to earn while you learn, so you can augment your personal and family income without sacrificing your current occupation or family obligations.

If you:

- are willing to work 8 to 10 hours a week around your children's schedule or your current occupation
- want to earn extra income
- are willing to work part-time or full-time interviewing parents with young children

We offer:

- a FREE seminar on how to develop your child's potential for maximum IQ, EQ, MQ and TQ
- a FREE hands-on orientation using our multilevel and multisensory materials
- an income of P4,000 for 5 to 6 interviews
- a chance to own the programs for your children at almost NO COST to you.

Come for interview: **Suite 504 Galleria Corporate Tower**
EDSA corner Ortigas Ave.
Monday to Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please bring your bio-data and a recent photo.

Citimart Group of Companies

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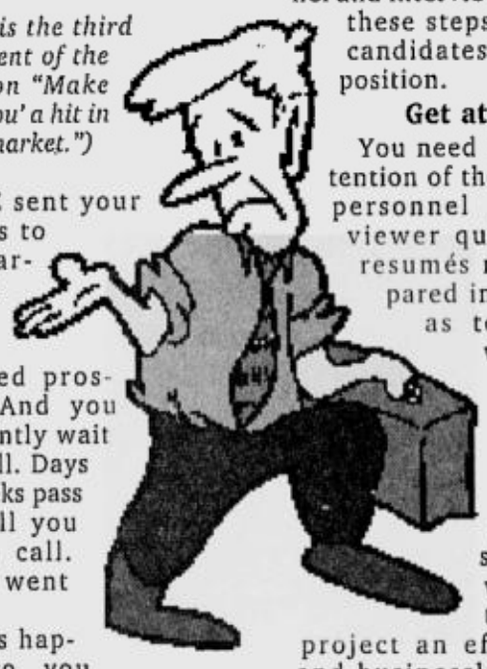
MARKETING BRAND 'YOU'

Seek 'AID' so companies will call you

By Regina Galang Reyes

(This is the third installment of the article on "Make brand 'you' a hit in the job market.")



YOU'VE sent your resumés to your targeted companies or qualified prospects. And you expectantly wait for a call. Days and weeks pass and still you get no call. What went wrong?

If this happens to you, you've got to seek 'AID' so you can get companies to call you for those all important screening tests or interviews.

'AID' is a personal selling technique used by salespeople to "hook" their qualified prospects. It stands for attention, interest and desire. According to Charles Futrell, author of "Fundamentals of Selling," these are the prospect's first three steps in buying. Recruitment personnel and interviewers also take these steps in selecting candidates for a vacant position.

Get attention

You need to get the attention of the recruitment personnel and interviewer quickly. Thus, resumés must be prepared in such as way as to stand out without being weird. In interviews, you must present yourself in such a way as to project an efficient and businesslike image.

With a good first impression, you need to gain and sustain their interest. You can only do this with an understanding of how applications are selected from hundreds of other applications and how an applicant gets to the shortlist of final candidates for interview. This involves brushing up on your psychology (more on this later).

Then, you need to transform their lukewarm interest into a strong desire to call you (at the stage of applications screening) or to hire you (during the interview stage).

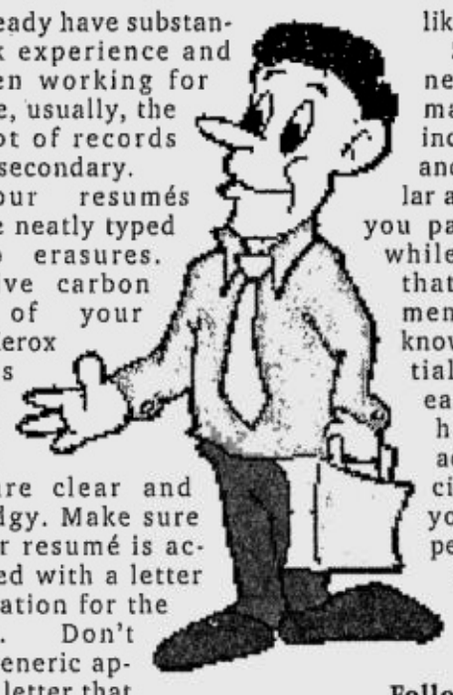
Gain interest

Here are some "preapproach" techniques or tips on how to gain the attention, interest and desire of recruitment personnel.

1. Make sure your qualifications match the specifications for the vacant position. That done, your next task is to make a resumé that will be "buyable." Like any other product, you wouldn't purchase a product that looks cheap. So, first of all, as much as possible, don't use the preprinted bio-data forms that are available in stores. Those should be your last resort, in case you don't have a typewriter or access to a computer.

Good resumés

2. A good resumé is one that is neatly typed and follows a commonly accepted format. Usually, there are six headings in a resumé: the basic personal data and contact information, work experience, educational background, training and conferences attended, references and other personal data. All these should be included in your resumé. It doesn't pay to have a too short or too long resumé. Two or three pages, with a 2 X 2 photo and transcript of records (if you are a fairly new graduate), should do it. But if you already have substantial work experience and have been working for some time, usually, the transcript of records becomes secondary.



3. Your resumés should be neatly typed with no erasures. Don't give carbon copies of your resumé. Xerox copies would be fine as long as these are clear and not smudgy. Make sure that your resumé is accompanied with a letter of application for the position. Don't make a generic application letter that states, "I would like to apply for any position that suits me." This reflects a person with no clear career goals.

4. Don't use colored paper in your resumés. Resumes are often copied and if your resumé is on colored paper, it can't be copied clearly. Also, don't be too artsy in your resumé layout or use colored envelope in enclosing your documents nor colored ink in printing your resumés. Don't also use textured or thick paper. Unless you are applying for a creative position, it is best to appear businesslike and formal.

5. If you are a new graduate, make sure you include seminars and extracurricular activities which you participated in while at school so that the recruitment personnel knows your potentials in other areas. If you don't have academic achievements to cite, list down your positive personality traits that would be valuable in the workplace.

Follow up

6. As extra insurance, make a follow-up call with the Human Resource or Personnel Dept. This call can catch the attention of the recruitment personnel. But don't be pushy.

Once the company calls you, make sure you do well in the screening tests, if any. These are usually IQ and personality tests and perhaps some specific competency tests that will assess skills needed for a particular position. For example, a layout artist may be asked to lay out a page using PageMaker software. Definitely, if you pass the tests, you will be interviewed. In the interview, you again must get use "AID" to get the attention, interest and desire of the interviewer.

(More on this next week. Send feedback to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph).

How can you tell if your company's headed for trouble?

DEAR WW: My company says it's doing fine. But I know other companies are doing big layoffs, which makes me nervous that we could be facing layoff-city and not even know. How can you tell if your company's in trouble?
Sinking Ship

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Every industry has its own way of spelling trouble. In TV, for instance, it's often spelled "shiny." I learned this when I taped Working Wounded segments for the local ABC affiliate. One day, the cameraman said that my forehead reflected light better than the rescue mirror he'd had as a Cub Scout, and hustled me to the station's makeup consultant for a primer on foundations. Now I'm the proud owner of a "sand beige" compact (and secure enough in my masculinity to tell you about it!)

When it comes to cosmetics however, I pale in comparison to most corporations. They are the real pros at make-up, and it takes more than cold cream to get under the polish and learn what's really going on. I've made some suggestions below for how you can do it. Also check out Andy Sherman's book, "Running and Growing Your Business" (Times, 1997).

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

1. Does your company have too few clients? If one client comprises over half your business, they're not a customer—they're your boss. How dependent is your company on the whims of a single customer?

2. Does your company have enough cash? Late paychecks are a sure sign your company's struggling, but you can spot problems long before that by noting if key projects are getting short-changed. Critical initiatives put on hold often indicate poor cash flow, and as I've said before, cash flow is more important than your mother.

3. Does your company tolerate poor performers? Every company has a few slackers, but when they're the rule instead of the exception, you should be concerned. Companies today don't have to be mean, but they do have to be lean.

4. Is your company doing a bad job of managing its accounts receivables? How together is your company at getting the money it's owed? Make friends with someone in accounts receivable to see if they're collecting what's due.

5. What is the press saying? As a columnist, I'll be the first to admit that the press isn't always right—but neither is your company's PR department. Read everything you can get your hands on about your company because the truth may come from outside.

6. How does your company manage information? Cash flow is more

important than your mother, but there's something even more important than both: how your company manages information. If the majority of the computer systems at your company still can't communicate with one another, it's probably time to find a company that takes information seriously. Because today, the ability to adapt is largely based on managing information.

All employees should make the following compact: I won't take my company's position at face value ever again. Instead, I'll do some homework so I won't get taken in by appearances.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: Which movie title best sums up your feelings about your company's future prospects?

—Fantastic voyage, 25.2 percent

—Ordinary People, 30 percent

—Apocalypse Now, 44.7 percent

Our winning strategy for determining your company's future prospects comes from Buffalo in cyberspace. "I think your column missed the simplest sign: bad morale. Does everyone look either pissed off or depressed? Do you hear cynical comments and caustic laughter coming from the lunchroom? Are cubicles sprouting posters that say, "You obviously have mistaken me for someone who gives a damn"? Is sick time, or just unexplained time away from work, way up? Are people arriving late and leaving early (and the supervisors are too dispirited to say anything about it)? I've been there a couple of times, it's a sure indicator that it's time to start sidling toward the exits, before the stampede starts."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com.)

WORKING OOPS!

(Kudos to the first batch of contributors to Working Oops! For having guts and a sense of humor, you get P500 for each contribution. . Way to go girls/guys! – PaW Editor.)

Technologically challenged employee grapples with office machines

By Ping

I WILL never ever forget my first week as a banker in a commercial bank. It was a learning experience for me and at the same time, it inspired me to be more determined to go through life no matter what.

First, I did not know how to use a computer. So, every time my boss would ask me to encode a document, I would open my ever reliable *kodigo* to follow the instructions that a computer literate friend of mine gave to me. Gosh! Imagine that?

Second, I did not know how to use a fax machine. When I asked a co-employee who had long been a banker, she just retorted with an agitated look that I should just dial it like an ordinary phone. So, I did, but the next problem was, I did not know how to insert the paper. My co-employee didn't care if I couldn't operate it and left me with the machine.

With hurt feelings, I was on the verge of crying, but my common sense prevailed. I told myself, I have to do my job and I must not be onion-skinned, otherwise I will not survive. So, I asked the help of another co-employee and fortunately, she operated the fax machine for me and gave me the details I needed to know.

Third, I did not know how to operate our high-tech photocopying machine, which has a monitor/screen and staples and sorts documents on its own with the user's command. So, I asked a co-worker to teach me how to operate it and thank God, she gladly oriented me on how to use it.

Lastly, I was asked to make coffee for the boss and visitors! Would you believe that? Yet it's true! Worse, I do not even make coffee for myself because I only drink milk! I felt so degraded every time I did this, but since I did it with a co-staff, it lessened my embarrassment.

Looking back, those circumstances were humbling experiences for me. That is why whenever we have a new employee, I make it a point to be extra accommodating to them to make them feel that they are part of the company. I hope these experiences will serve as a lesson for those who want to be part and parcel of the so-called corporate jungle.

'The paper's still here!'

By Tina

MY FORMER officemate Eden did not know how to operate a fax machine, so she sought my help when she was asked to send a letter through fax. She handed me the letter and I explained, while demonstrating, "Just feed the paper face down, lift the handset, dial the number, wait for the fax tone or ask for it if it's not in the auto fax mode, then press the start button once you hear the tone.

"Oh, I see. It's easy," she said. Upon seeing the paper come out of the fax machine, she pointed out worriedly, "But wait, they didn't receive our letter."

"How come?" I said and pointed to the screen on the fax machine which showed "1 page sent OK."

She replied, "See, the paper came out! How will they receive it? It's still here."

At a loss for words

By Jim Caro

I WAS then a news correspondent for a national daily when I had a chance to be part of the media people covering a live radio broadcast of an election forum during the 1999 barangay and local government elections. Present at the event were VIPs in Laguna which included the regional and provincial police directors, local government officials and non-government officials among others.

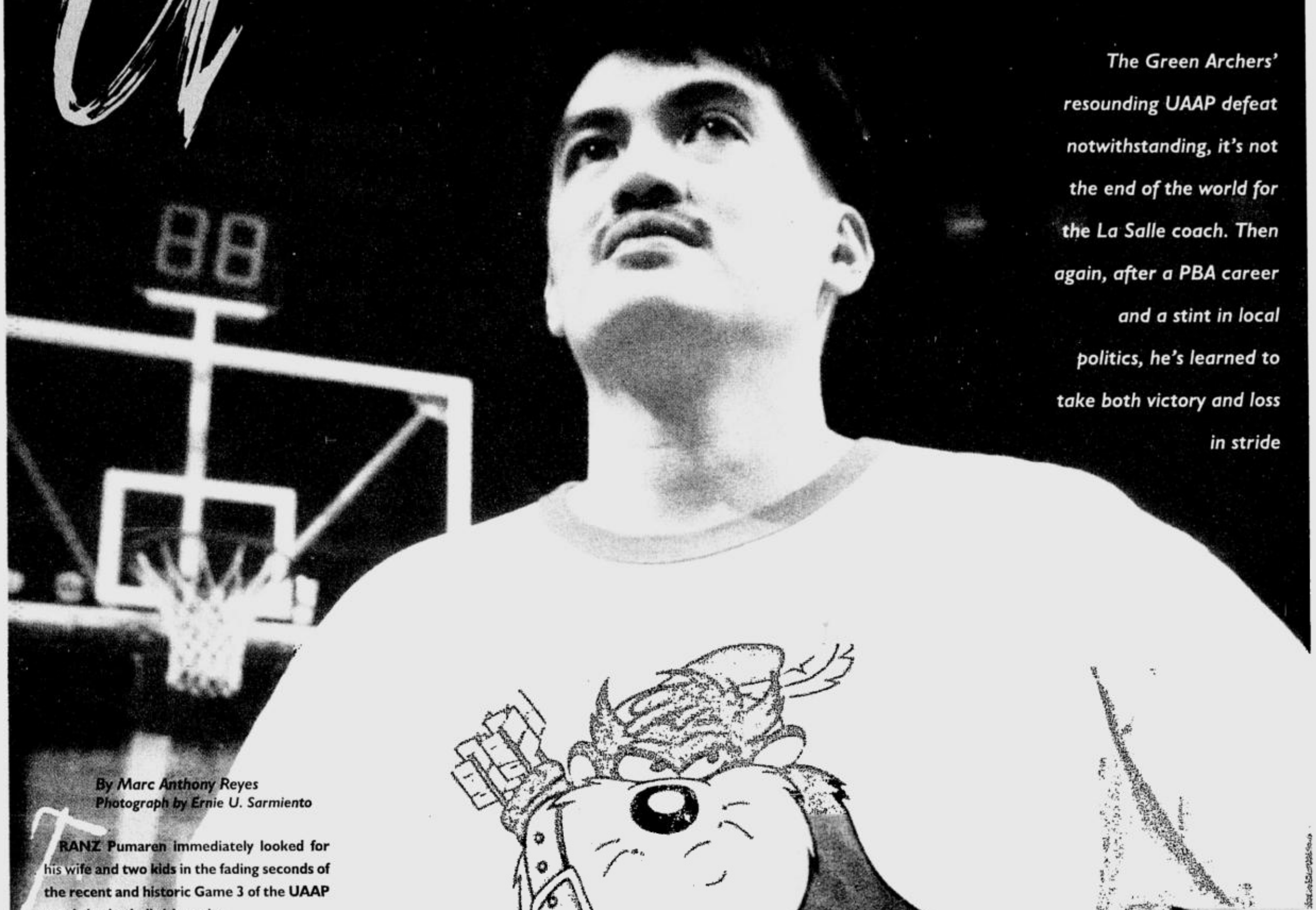
I had a question for the police directors and was asked to hold that question and wait for my turn. I was so engrossed with what the other guests were saying (which took some time) and was busy taking notes. When it was my turn to ask, everybody's eyes were on me as I held the mike. After about five seconds of dead air, I blurted, "I forgot my question!" which was carried live on air! Everybody burst into laughter in the midst of a serious issue.

(Send your contributions to peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph)

sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
November 3, 2002

Franz Pumaren

Unbowed



The Green Archers' resounding UAAP defeat notwithstanding, it's not the end of the world for the La Salle coach. Then again, after a PBA career and a stint in local politics, he's learned to take both victory and loss in stride

By Marc Anthony Reyes
Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

FRANZ Pumaren immediately looked for his wife and two kids in the fading seconds of the recent and historic Game 3 of the UAAP men's basketball title series.

By that time, the Big Dome was already beginning to drown in the flurry of Ateneo's blue and white celebration. La Salle's chance for a fifth straight title was by then slowly slipping through the Archers' hands.

Caught in the frenzy were his wife Odette and their sons Luigi, 9, and Nico, 7. They remained seated at the sidelines, still rooting for him.

"They were the first thing that came into my mind," says Franz, finally breaking his two-week silence after the fall of the Archers' four-year dynasty.

But that's about all the frailty the 39-year-old Franz was willing to show this reporter. In fact, he quickly shifted gear and explained that what transpired wasn't actually the worst thing that happened to him.

"I don't want to sound like a hypocrite, but contrary to what other people thought, I didn't really feel like the world ended when we lost," says Franz. "The one thing I learned is that there are things in life that you really can't control, no matter how hard you try."

He delivered that line with his usual articulateness, yet there was something in Franz's smooth, boyish face that couldn't hide the pain he must have felt inside. He just couldn't get himself to flash a smile.

Maybe because, while this interview was being conducted, he was still reeling from La Salle's 77-78 loss to Philippine Christian University in a benefit tournament featuring top UAAP and NCAA teams.

To some extent, that loss probably felt as stinging as the one dealt by the Eagles, because it was decided by a three-pointer by Dolphin Rob Sanz in the final four seconds that erased a 77-75 lead.

Franz called for a timeout after the shot went in, only to slump back deep in his seat when team superstar Mike Cortez flubbed a daredevil drive as time expired.

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DON'T MESS WITH THE GREEN ARCHER

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Artist Onib Olmedo's unique style and warm heart remain unforgotten

Franz ...from page 1

"I'm not in the business of blaming anybody every time we lose," says Franz as he makes his way through a throng of teenage fans at the sweltering dugout of Rizal Memorial Coliseum, where the benefit series was being held. "When you look back at the title series, we didn't really play at the level we are capable of.

"On a personal level, I wasn't hurt that much," he adds. "I've had my own share of successes in the past, and I think I'm strong enough to weather the disappointment, no matter how big it was."

After all, the 5-foot-9 Franz's credentials include the Archers' string of UAAP titles from 1998 to 2001, a 12-year PBA career highlighted by a Grand Slam with San Miguel Beer in 1989, and a stint as councilor of Quezon City.

He maintains that losing a chance to post a historic five-straight title was "too small" a setback compared to the one he suffered four years ago when he ran for congressman, and lost.

"When it comes to level of difficulty, what happened to me in 1998 ranked way up there," recounts Franz, who lost the election despite enjoying an 18 percent edge in the polling survey a week before balloting. "Then Vice President (Joseph) Estrada even called me to his house in San Juan to tell me that I was favored among the candidates. But I eventually lost."

That time, Franz says, he was perfectly convinced that he would win, something he says he never felt at the start of the 2002 UAAP season.

"We (La Salle) weren't even up there as title contenders," says Franz. "They were talking of Ateneo, UE and UST as strong contenders. We were just billed as the defending champions."

He also notes that La Salle got depleted this season with the exit of RenRen Ritualo and Ronald Cuan. That and the fact that La Salle, again, "didn't play at a level we are capable of," created a dent in the Archers' seemingly impenetrable armor.

"Up to a certain extent, I can say that the things that happened to me in the past have put me in a better position to deal with our defeat," Franz says. "But things like these only help you strengthen your personality and face tougher challenges ahead."

PDI PHOTO

Getting a hand after last year's UAAP victory: "We only get what we deserve"

That's why, instead of wallowing in self-pity, Franz chose to toast his players at the scheduled "victory party" after Game 3 held at the DLSU Taft campus.

While everybody thought it would be a night of mourning, the evening turned out to be cheerful occasion attended by more than a thousand students and school officials.

"I told them that there was nothing to be ashamed of," says Franz. "We've had a good run—nine straight finals appearances—and I think we only get what we deserve."

He also took the opportunity to announce his plans to rebuild the school's basketball program, as he made a commitment to sign up for one more season with the Archers.

One possible stumbling block for La Salle's campaign next year is the fact that, aside from BJ Manalo, it does not have a string of juniors who will succeed the players graduating this season, including Cortez, Adonis Sta. Maria and Willie Wilson.

The Archers' lineup in the 2002 season was composed of seniors and sophomores, with no juniors who would eventually pit skills with the incoming seniors of rival clubs like Eagles Larry Fonacier and Wesley Gonzales, Tiger Cyrus Baguio and Warriors Paul Artadi and James Yap. In short, La Salle may not lack in talent, but will be wanting in experience.

"These are challenges," Franz says, "and I'm a person who loves challenges."

He's got some experience to back up that claim, though, particularly during his PBA days, when, despite being one of the speediest and sharpest shooting pointguards ever in the league, he played only second fiddle to the great Hector Calma in the star-studded San Miguel Beer lineup in the '80s.

That set-up went on season after season until Calma's injured knee forced him to retire, allowing Franz to finally run the breaks for the Beermen. In his entire PBA career, Franz managed to post a decent 7.5 points-per-game and four assists-per-game averages.

His younger brother Dindo is still playing for Fed-Ex in the PBA under the helm of another brother, Derrick. Their father, Pilo, has been a long-time assistant coach of the Beermen.

"When you grow up in a family that embraced basketball," says Franz, "you will learn that dealing with victory is the same as dealing with defeat."

True enough, win or lose, Franz Pumaren—who is off to Paris with his wife on a well-deserved vacation—has proven that he can deal with either one very well.

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'LOS CAPRICHOS'
An exhibit of 80 prints based on the theme of capricious affairs and style in etchings by renowned 18th century Spanish master Francisco de Goya is on view at the Museum of the Filipino People, Rizal Park, Manila until Nov. 10. In photo is Goya's self-portrait. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Poetry

Airport

Like the dark side of the moon your cheek in hiding last night
pressed on a pillow, and, while you slept, I turned the other way
to memorize the taste of India in my mouth, our dinner conversation
hours before rich as *parantha*, our eyes shining from spices

strong as pain. After, tell me, was there a need for you to wander
in the streets of Malate to walk off this sentence—*I'm sorry*
it isn't working out—glowing with orange lanterns inside
the restaurant? Perhaps we do better with touch, like that afternoon

we made love with sunlight rippling through the window, our skins
the surface of water mirroring rays. Now this morning
even the sky is in on it: not a cloud is written on the blank blue
stationery and in the air there is only the absence of speech.

Today is Sunday, and you are holding your ticket instead
of my hand and traveling the short distance between
"Arrival" and "Departure," the broken wing of a line—*Please*
stay—caged in my throat, the flight of words terrified of heights.

Ma. Alessandra O. Trinidad

Sabik sa Pagbabad

Sa tuwing sasapit
ang buwan ng Abril at Mayo,
parating iniimbita ng alon
sa baybay ang mga sabik
sa pagbabad, sa malawak
na lupaing tinubigan ng panahon.

Parang kailangang haplusin
ng alat ang balat
na parating babad sa tabang,
upang magkalasa ang katawan—
dahil karaniwan naman itong nadarama.

Maaari kayang dalhin o ilipat
ang laot sa bayan,
habang patuloy na nagtataasan
ang mga konstruksyon—
halos maabot ang langit?

Kung ang dagat ay nasa bayan,
di na natin kailangan pang tawagin
ang hangin
upang sunduin tayo
patungong karagatan.

Arvin Tiong Ello

The Nymph of MTV
for Danil

"History does not record this event—
it was a deep country where I went."
—from Cirilo F. Bautista's "Song"

The nymph of MTV takes off her coat
and rides the neon boat of memory.

Subliminal the sea she journeys across,
sepulchral green the frothy expanse

of gashing swells against fish and foam.
History does not record this, this passing

of memory to momentary madness,
needless impermanence, the lassitude

of loving. Upon reaching the coast,
she puts on her coat, and walks

to the dense foliage of forgetting.

Angelo V. Suarez

Onstage
By Joy Rojas

Taking Centerstage

The durable dance group Hotlegs first gained acclaim some 20 years back with their slinky moves and risqué outfits. Today, they remain much-sought after not just as a front act but as headliners themselves in an upcoming show

Rockin' and risqué: Hotlegs diva and managing and artistic director Christine Blando; below, helping singer Martin Nievera look good

WHEN it comes to performing a song-and-dance number before hordes of screaming fans, there are those who thank God for blessing them with rhythm—and those who thank Hotlegs for saving them from making fools of themselves. Never mind if you move like a a dazed hospital patient or a zombie who marches to his own beat; Christine Blando, Mapet Martinez, and the rest of Hotlegs have enough tricks up their sleeves to turn a lamp post into a moon-walking, bumping-and-grinding dance machine. Movie stars with no sense of timing or direction, according to Blando and Martinez, usually get an aerial lift during a dance number. "So if ever you see one in the air, being lifted, you know what that means," laughs Blando.

Meanwhile, guys struggling with the steps are often partnered with one of the company's experienced female dancers. "Or else, *soca na lang siya!*" giggles Martinez, demonstrating the hip-swaying Latin move.

Of the acts that keep Hotlegs on their toes, Blando and Martinez are all praises for Gary Valenciano. "You'd be embarrassed if you don't come up to performance level during rehearsals," says Martinez, to which Blando adds, "You know, I danced with him in his first concert 20 years ago and he still gives as much now as he did back then." Pops Fernandez and Jaya are two singers who take rehearsals seriously, they add, as does Ogie Alcasid, who is a better dancer than most people give him credit for. "That's a side of him people don't often see," they agree. While Martin Nievera believes he was born with two left feet, Blando and Martinez appreciate the fact that the talk show host would often request for some choreography which he then "rehearses forever, so he remembers it even in his next show." The Concert King, they reveal, also never fails to thank all the people behind his every show; he actually knows each and every member of Hotlegs by name. Meanwhile Regine Velasquez insists on nothing less for her dancers; the Asian Songbird has been known to underwrite some of the group's stage wardrobe. "We've been fortunate enough to work with artists who regard us with a certain degree of respect," smiles Blando.

Needless to say, Hotlegs has proven itself to be more than just a moving stage ornament or a filler before a front act. A concert at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati on November 5 and 7 bills them as the main attraction over special guests Ralion Alonso, the Manoeuvers, and surprise appearances from some of the industry's top concert artists. Timed to coincide with their 21st year in the business and the launch of their official website (www.hotlegsdance.com), "Hotlegs: In The Flesh" features the company's trademark moves and dream pieces as envisioned by resident choreographers Blando, Charles Thompson, Georcelle Dapat, Nancy Crowe and guest choreographer Jaime del Prado. "We all felt it was important to celebrate the gathering of talent," explains Blando of the event. "So far, this batch (which currently has 32 active members) is the strongest in Hotlegs' history."

It was director Johnny Manahan who christened the group Hotlegs in 1981, when founding members Lani Fernando, Gina Valenciano, Sandy and Dea Hontiveros, Cynthia Salang, Eric Ver and Douglas Nierras left their original company (the Manila Metropolis Ballet) to embrace other forms of dance, particularly jazz. Although they first performed in Morocco for the King, Hotlegs' eventual habitues were television and the live concert circuit. Set apart by their slinky moves and risqué outfits (they sported dance panties, bra tops and Sex Bomb shorts before they were in vogue), the group backed up nearly every famous name and face in the entertainment industry before headlining its own concert in 1987.

Blando, a trained dancer from Hotlegs' second batch, took over from Nierras when he exited a year later to start his own group, Powerdance. The dearth of live shows and variety programs in the early-to-mid-'90s saw the group focused on training and recruitment (Martinez and other members of the Metropolitan Dance Theater were absorbed into the company at this point). Today, Hotlegs' dance card remains full; the group enjoys a regular spot in weekend variety shows and specials like SOP and the Aliw Awards. They were last spotted in the recent concerts of Ogie Alcasid, Lani Misalucha, Side A, Freestyle, and international artists Bobby Caldwell, Phil Perry and Pauline Wilson.

"You know what's nice about performing in Hotlegs? *May dating* (you have an impact)," says Blando, who is also the group's managing and artistic director. "You may be on stage with Regine, but Regine isn't the only person the audience is looking at. Not every dance group gets that kind of attention and I'm quite happy about that." It certainly makes up for the flak they receive on occasion. Aware yet unfazed by the condescending perceptions pinned on dancers, Blando declares, "We've all been through that but I think we've learned to let go of the angst. Dancers carry themselves with a sense of pride. I don't care what people think of Japayukis—sometimes we are Japayukis because let's face it, the economics of the job will not sustain you. So once in a while, some of the dancers do go ahead and perform in Japan. But so what? We may be in a club or a small stage in Japan, but we still give a damn good show."

Twice weekly, three-hour jazz classes conducted by resident choreographers likewise ensure ovation-worthy performances from the country's most enduring commercial dance company. At a youthful 37, Blando herself looks like she's got a lot of mileage left in her. But the most senior member of the group intends to retire from dancing at the end of the year so she can focus her efforts entirely on choreography. "I want to teach again," she says. "I want to have a hand in the next generation of Hotlegs dancers."

That, of course, will have to wait: for now, Blando is raring to get up on that Greenbelt stage and dance like her life and soul depended on it. "You know, I've been dancing professionally for almost 20 years," she reflects, "and I still have butterflies in my stomach before an entrance. You're really only as good as your last performance."

In Memoriam

By Barbara Mae Dacanay

The Happy Expressionist

PDI PHOTO

IMAGINE a Filipino architect who dared to erect water for walls in his mind. Imagine him becoming an artist who remained married, stable and jolly despite the black holes of his canvases, which many could not look straight into because of their dark and anguished messages. For a long time, Onib Olmedo, one of the Philippines' most notable expressionist painters, happily filled his canvases with prostitutes, strangers, unusual women, bewitching magicians, optimistic gamblers, alienated lovers locked in deathly embrace, vendors bent with hopelessness, musicians terrified of their own natural creativity, and satirical portraits of powerful men.

The legacy of the late Olmedo, who died on September 8, 1996, is more vivid today because he typifies the anguish, the pain, and the accompanying salvation of an artist who was always attracted to compelling characters. All his life, Olmedo was a nomad of norms. He was an architect for 12 years and an artist for 25 years. He graduated from the Mapua Institute of Technology under the tutelage of Pablo Antonio in 1959. He comfortably worked with Julio Rocha, former dean of the University of Santo Tomas College of Architecture, and with a string of architectural firms.

Then all of a sudden, he wanted to become an artist after he had watched "Lust for Life," a film on the legendary Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh. "When I saw 'Lust for Life,' I thought Van Gogh was a fictional character. A friend of mine wrongly said the film was about the French artist Paul Gauguin. At that time, I didn't know many artists, but I knew Picasso, Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Juan Luna, Amorsolo," he said in an interview before his death.

The transition happened quickly. In 1971, he said goodbye to his straight and geometric lines and traded them in for the interiorities, mirrors and depths that went into the making of the psychological portraits he became known for.

Self-portrait: "When I paint, I try not to think of anything else"

The late artist Onib Olmedo would have turned 65 this year. Yet, his extraordinary work, his unique world view, and his true artist's heart remain unparalleled and unforgotten, even by new generations of artists

When he set aside his drafting table, he gravitated to his first culture-ground, Ermita's Mabini and M. H. del Pilar streets. In the '60s, the places evoked an aura as romantic and bohemian as France's sidewalk cafes or New York's Soho. He joined a loose and informal group of artists based in Mabini and became an apprentice of mentors and friends such as Bading Cabrera and Peck Piñon.

"But artist Raul Lebajo got my work and said they don't belong in Mabini," Olmedo recalled. His friends in Mabini also told him to go elsewhere. A bit lost, he asked his friends, Rod.Paras Perez, Ocampo, and Justin Nuyda if he should enroll in the College of Fine Arts. "They told me, 'Don't go back to school!'"

In search of a more modern milieu, he discovered the Saturday Group, composed of artists such as Hernando Ocampo, Cesar Legaspi, Mauro Malang, and writer-artist Alfredo Roces, at the defunct Taza de Oro on Roxas Boulevard and the Solidaridad Bookstore along Padre Faura owned by novelist F. Sionil Jose. Unanimously, Olmedo was anointed the new expressionist, the Benjamin of Philippine modern art who could help strengthen contemporary expressions.

Talking about his day as an artist at that time, he said, "We would meet at lunch at the Taza de Oro, talk about art, visit galleries and studios of artists. In the afternoon, I would be sketching nudes in some private studios. I had time to play basketball with fellow artists. I was always with writers, politicians, and journalists. They always stimulated my mind. *Mas puro noon ang mga* artist. They were more authentic because there were no influences that swayed and altered them."

He became known for his peripatetic creative process. "I work fast. I finish in hours. Until I get something that I like, I continue working on my canvas. When it is finished, or almost finished, when there is a contour, that is when I try to consider the aesthetics or the rule of art appreciation in my work," he said. "When I am painting, I try not to think of anything else. I do it by impulse, by intuition, not knowing the final result of my work. I paint without a plan. I don't make a study. Sometimes, when I'm almost finished, I still don't know what I am doing. Even the subject matter becomes incidental. In big or small canvases, my approach is the same. I think the less intellectual the approach, the more emotional the creative

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WEEK 10
INQUIRER
DIAMOND BE MINE
ENTRY FORM
Per DTI-NCR permit # 3338, series of 2002

Questions
1. When and where will the "Hotlegs: In the Flesh", a concert of Hotlegs that bills them as the main attraction over special guest artists and some of the country's top concert artists, be held?
2. What is the album title of the cd shown in the SMART – MTV Most Wanted Logos and Ringtones ad?
3. What is the highlight of the 12-year PBA career of Franz Pumaren?
4. Until when is the Diamond Be Mine promo extended?

Extended until December 1!!!

NAME
ADDRESS
TEL
SIGNATURE

• Entries must be received by PDI by 5pm of November 11 for the November 12 draw.
• See print ads for more details. Drop entries in drop boxes located in any Inquirer branch or the Glorietta IV Cinema Lobby.

MAKATI (MAIN) Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts. Tel. No. 897-8808
MAKATI G/F Atrium Building Makati Avenue Tel. No. 811-4361
QUEZON CITY St. Anthony's Building Cor. Oxford St., Aurora Blvd. Cubao Tel. No. 912-9008 to 11
MANILA Ground Floor TrinityBuidling 1 M. Kalaw St., Ermita Tel. No. 527-3342
MANDALUYONG SM Megamall, 5th Level Building B EDSA Tel. No. 635-0219
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Value Added Services: The New SMART Ballgame

It was never a question of making things possible. That's a given. The moment you subscribe to SMART, you have at your fingertips a plethora of unique services and features abound designed to make your life plain sailing. And when I say 'unique', I don't merely mean 'first of its kind in the country'; we're talking 'innovative trendsetter on the planet'.

Starting from the bare necessities, SMART is already at the forefront of innovation. We all know that mobile communication is made possible courtesy of a microchip, otherwise known as a SIM. This technological marvel not only connects us with the rest of the world but also allows us to store info such as phonebook entries and SMS messages. Just recently, SMART introduced the most powerful SIM card in the market—the SMART 64K Super SIM. With this new breakthrough, SMART subscribers can store up to 250 phonebook entries and as much as 60 messages in the SIM inbox. Plus only the SMART 64K SIM allows you to enjoy click-and-browse access to the widest array of mobile phone services.

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Then there's SMART zed. It's now common knowledge that your celfone mirrors your very self; call it your hi-tech 'mini-me'. So consider SMART zed your celfone's very own personal stylist, on-call anytime, rain or shine. Dig that new song of J Lo? Just access SMART zed on your celfone's menu and you can download the ringtone of your choice in seconds. Or if you're sick and tired of your celfone's consistent poker face, add some pizzazz to it by downloading logos that best sum up your character—just by accessing SMART zed on your celfone! And keep abreast with current affairs using your SMART zed, from up-to-the-minute news to email and business to stock updates. If you fancy lots of icing on your cake, then have a big helping of SMART zed.

With a little bit of luck and a flair for answering brain-teasing riddles, you just might become a millionaire with SMART. Fun and Riddles to Millions is the newest text game from SMART that's sure to keep your mind puzzled and begging for more! SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers simply have to key in RIDDLE and send to 288. Then they can immediately start answering riddle after riddle to their mind's content. By playing regularly and getting more correct answers within the promo period of October 1 to December 23, 2002, SMART subscribers can win an unbelievable number of prizes from SMART. Weekly raffle winners can win P25,000, the winners of the monthly raffle can win P50,000. For the really big prizes, the highest scorer will take home P100,000 while the grand prize winner will take home the P1,000,000 jackpot!

For the film buffs, there's SMART Cinema Club. Just recently, SMART premiered "The Tuxedo" starring silver screen tough guy Jackie Chan. By keying in TUXEDO on your celfone and sending to 239, SMART Cinema Club members were given exclusive access to logos, picture messages, screensavers, ringtones, and games. For every download of a logo, picture message, group icon, and screen saver the subscriber receives one electronically generated and recorded download raffle ticket. Lucky raffle winners received two tickets to the premiere of "The Tuxedo" last September 28 at SM Megamall Cinema 3! Other box office hits recently featured by SMART Cinema Club include "Austin Powers: Goldmember", "Men in Black II" and "Spider-Man".

And for those who take their music seriously, SMART brings you Music Link. By tying-up with Tower Records and M1, SMART now gives you access to the latest ringtones from the Tower weekly Top 25! But getting the hottest ringtones is just the tip of the iceberg. By merging record labels, publishers and radio stations, SMART has created a massive music service that brings its subscribers talk of the town promos and events. The most recent one proved to be a resounding success as it kept the party people up for an all-nighter: The Chillout Project album launch of Anton Ramos happened to be the culprit. By tying-up with his record label, SMART hosted a Chillout Sunrise Launch Party at Mati in Rockwell recently which kicked off at 11pm and wound up at 7am in time for breakfast the next day! And because of the wide network of tie-ups created by Music Link, people got to win tickets to the party simply by using their Smart Money at Tower Records and M1. By downloading chillout logos and ringtones, subscribers also won copies of The Chillout Project on CD. To join Music Link, simply key in "MUSIC" and send to 209.

Finally, get into the spirit of the Halloween season as it creeps up on us once again with the SMART and Nestle Txt & Treat promo. By simply texting in the word "TREAT" on your SMART celfone and sending it to 292, you can instantly win a Nestle Drumstick Halo-Halo Overload or SMARTIES chocolate candies! Get a chance to win more prizes by playing any of the two exciting text-based games. With the 'Txt Ur Story' game, be the first subscriber to choose the right ending from an adventure of your choice and you instantly win a Nokia 3510 celfone! Try the 'Monster Logo' game and find out what kind of monster you are by simply answering 12 monster profiling questions. At the end, SMART will send you a logo of the type of monster that best fits your personality. What's more, each answer to any of the two games entitles you to raffle points for the weekly and grand draws where SMART will give away Sony Playstion 2s weekly and P100,000 cash for the grand prize! (Promo period: October 23 to November 23, 2002)

As you probably have gathered by now, SMART isn't just about the widest coverage, low IDD rates or most powerful SIM. SMART actually delves beyond the norm and dreams up a host of creative, innovative services that go hand in hand with your lifestyle. Surely, that has to be part of the reason why SMART has the most subscribers this side of the globe today.

Actor Joyce Jimenez lounges around enjoying the roster of SMART Value Added Services

City folk unwind to a mellow groove during the SMART Music Link "The Chillout Project" Sunrise Party

ADVT.

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

November Reflections

The secret of 'dying well' must be found in a life dedicated to dismantling the cruel barriers that separate people, churches and nations

HERE are some November thoughts which might help detoxify the mind of the eerie images of Halloween: *multo, aswang, kapre* (ghosts, ghouls, ogres), demonic apparitions and other unfriendly fantasies about death and dying during this dreary month.

Here are some soothing reflections not necessarily about dying and grieving, but about creating a culture of life and light (instead of shadows and death) in our hearts especially at this time of fear and stress.

Eric Fromm begins by saying that, "The whole of life is nothing but the process of giving birth to oneself; indeed we should be fully born when we die."

The late **Franz Arcellana** had a prayer which was shared during his wake:

A Prayer
Close all open things, Lord,
Open all closed things.
All those who have long received,
let them give.
All those who have long given,
let them receive.
All those too long apart,
let them come together,
And those too long together,
let them be detached.
Let the wise be fools for once,
Lord, and let the fools
Speak their minds.
Affirm the long denied, Lord,
Fulfill the unfulfilled. Amen.

A card quotes **St. Therese of Lisieux**:

May your sorrow find reassurance
in God's promise of heavenly reunion
Love will continue unbroken beyond our mortal life

This favorite is from a certain **Birago Diyop**, shared at the wake of Romeo M. Alday (1942-2001).

Those who are dead are never gone:
They are there in the thickening shadow
The dead are not under the earth
they are in the trees that rustle
they are in the wood that groans
they are in the water that sleeps
they are in the hut, they are in the crowd,
the dead are not dead.

Those who are dead are never gone,
they are in the breast of the woman,
they are in the child who is waiting
and in the firebrand that flames.

The dead are not under the earth
they are in the fire that is dying
they are in the grasses that weep
they are in the whimpering rocks
they are in the forest, they are in the house
the dead are not dead.

A comforting piece by an anonymous author trying to somehow heal the pain of a grieving widow:

To Those I Love and Those Who Love Me

When I am gone, release me, let me go...
I have so many things to see and do
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears
Be happy that we had so many years.

I gave you my love. You can only guess
How much you gave to me in happiness,
I thank you for the love we each have shown
But now it's time I travel alone.

So grieve a while for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted by trust...
It's only for a while that we must part
So bless the memories within your heart.

I won't be far away, for life goes on...
So if you need me, call and I will come
Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near...
And if you listen with your heart, you'll hear
All my love around you soft and clear.

And then, when you must come this way alone,
I'll greet you with a smile. And "Welcome Home."

For me, befriending death is being prepared to let go of whatever separates me from the rest of humanity. I feel deep sadness and pain, for example, when I am among people who see themselves as separate and different from one another merely because of power, wealth, gender, religion, politics, age, looks and so on.

If separation is the most poignant human pain, communion (as in solidarity and intimacy) is the most ecstatic human joy. The secret of "dying well" must be found in a life dedicated to the work of dismantling all the cruel and unjust barriers that separate people, churches and nations.

But the process must begin with me, I often tell myself. If in this life I keep accumulating symbols that make me separate from the others—*borlolays*, titles, possessions, power, fame, attachments, addictions, I will die clutching all these symbols close to my chest, and leave this world sad and afraid of an excruciating last separation from the rest of humanity, and from God who is the source of our ultimate Communion and Joy.

Here is the Eight O'Clock Evening Prayer of St. Gertrude, the Great, which is said to release 1,000 souls from Purgatory each time it is said. An apostolate of the Monfort Foundation and Prayer Warriors of the Holy Souls, P.O. Box, Greenhills, MM, tel. 531-0386.

"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners in the universal church, those in my home and within my family. Amen."

Two prayers for the living:

The Prayer of Jabez
O, that you would bless me indeed
And enlarge my territory
That your hand would be with me
And that you would keep me from evil
That I may not cause pain.

From the heart of Cardinal Suhard
To be a witness means to create mystery,
To live in such a way that one's life
would be inexplicable if God did not exist.

LoveNotes

By Joe D' Mango

Best Friend Beds Boyfriend

Jay said that when he woke up, he was in bed with Lisa. I felt the deepest pain of my life

Dear Joe,

My painful story happened in my workplace. The people concerned are my co-workers who happen to be the people closest to me. Jay was my very first friend in the office. Even if he's suplado *(standoffish), we got along very well.*

When my parents separated and I was in deep sorrow, I had no one to turn to because all my friends were busy and out of reach. Even Jay had to go to the province to visit his ailing mom, although he would call me once in a while.

It was during his absence that I became close to Lisa, an officemate who is regarded like a black sheep in the office. She has no close friends because she's really childish and impulsive. But she was the first person who noticed I wasn't feeling fine. She turned out to be very sweet, always checking on me and very concerned about how I was doing. She was with me during this bad time and though she gave me so many headaches, being the spoiled brat that she is, I was still thankful that she was there when I needed her.

Jay went back to work after a week. I told him about Lisa, whom he never liked. He asked me to stay away from her but I didn't want to and he had no choice. It wasn't long when the three of us became good friends. Jay finally proposed but I only wanted him to be a friend at that time. Just like Lisa, he became very sweet to me and would always take me home after work. Lisa knew there was something special about our friendship and so she served as our go-between.

After three months, I accepted Jay's proposal. We decided to keep it from Lisa for three weeks. When she learned about it, she said she was a bit disappointed with us for not telling her right away. But things went back to normal and the three of us would go out together just like before. Everything was fine for a year until one day, I just felt something was wrong. Jay and Lisa became very sweet to each other. I confronted Jay and later Lisa, and told her to acknowledge that I'm Jay's girlfriend.

The next day, Lisa started to ignore me. Jay had told her about our conversation and said I was being unfair to Lisa for thinking that way. I didn't argue with him and just left. He didn't call so I decided to beep him to break up. But Lisa talked to me and patched up everything. I gave Jay another chance because he sounded sincere when he apologized. Lisa decided to resign after a month to give Jay and I the space we needed. We tried to stop her but to no avail. On her last day, the three of us went out. We all cried during dinner.

When I came home I called up Lisa but she was not home yet. I called up Jay but his brother said he wouldn't go home that night. Joe, I didn't sleep the whole night. I was in deep pain. I was hoping my suspicions were wrong.

Illustrations by ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The next day, Jay had a hangover and wasn't in a good mood. He didn't even bother to greet me good morning. We didn't get to talk in the office until I was about to go home. I asked him what happened and he confessed everything. Lisa invited him to go out that night because she wanted to ask him what she could give me as a remembrance. He agreed because he thought it would be a nice surprise, but things turned out differently. She invited him for drinks as a farewell celebration. Jay was not a drinker so after a few beers, he got tipsy. But he didn't want to stop and appear like a weakling. Lisa meanwhile is a seasoned drinker. Jay said that when he woke up, he found himself in bed with Lisa. He felt angry with her and left. He showed me Lisa's text messages, asking for forgiveness and asking him to call so they could talk things out. But he never called her. Between sobs, he kept saying sorry to me. I was crying too and didn't know what to do. I felt the deepest pain of my life, being betrayed by both my boyfriend and close friend.

I wanted to end our relationship, but Jay refused. But I've made my decision and started ignoring him in the office, even if it tears my heart apart. I feel like crying every time I see him. We still talk, but it's all about work. He still calls me but I always find an excuse to, hang up. Lisa called me up once to say she's sorry but she has fallen deeply in love with Jay and she believes it's not her fault if she's done such a thing. I ignored her and made her realize I've been a very good friend to her while she hasn't been one to me. We both cried and I hung up. I never bothered to talk to her since, despite her sending me letters which I never read. It's so hard for me to forgive them. Lisa still calls Jay but he says he never responds to her. He still calls me every night and we talk about the usual things but it's so hard to go back to old times. He still loves me and I still love him. Nothing has changed, Joe. I still want him back but it's not easy to accept him again after all he has done. What will I do? I don't want to lose him but I don't want to be hurt that way again.

Lonely Ina

Dear Ina,

When someone we love breaks our heart, the pain it brings creeps into the deepest recesses of our souls and tears us apart. We are filled with hatred and harbor nothing but anger.

Sadly, just when our anger subsides, our ego takes over. Sometimes a hurt pride takes a lifetime to heal and usually gets in the way of a peaceful reconciliation. We may never find the best foot to put forward because we are always pulled back by our own pride and sense of dignity.

You can pin the blame on Jay and Lisa all your life, but that would not change anything. No amount of regret can turn back the hands of time and give you the power to change what destiny has permanently etched on your lives.

Ina, you can never find rest until you finally let go of the hatred in your heart. Don't live all your life cursing Lisa for falling in love with Jay. She has laid down her cards and asked for forgiveness. I think it's about time you let the past rest and find mercy in your heart.

Ina, remember that nobody's perfect. Even the most cautious man stumbles upon the smallest stone. If you still love Jay then don't be too hard on him. I think it's only fair to give him another chance to prove his worth and give your relationship a fresh new ground to start with .

We can only appreciate the beauty of a rose when we hold it but with this comes the possibility of getting pricked by its tiny thorns. And just like this flower, there is no relationship so beautiful that we can have without a price.

Love will always have a way of putting us to the test. This is your call, Ina. You may never be given this chance again. Make your choice. Give love a chance and you'll be giving yourself the chance to keep it. But be afraid to get hurt and you'll find love only to lose it.

By Jess Abrera

Kaluluwa

Art

The Writings of the Clouds, Lao Lianben's works in acrylic on plexiglass and canvas, until Nov. 5 at Galleria Duemila, Level 4, SM Megamall A.

Time+space=motion, a group exhibit that defines the distance of time and space by UP College of Fine Arts students Ana Cabardo, Jong Palrez, Vijan Pamulaklakin, Gerard Baja, Tomas Leonor and Edrick Daniel at Crowded House, behind Vinzons Hall, UP Diliman until Nov. 11.

Sense and Sensitivity, a collection of vivid visual allusions and allegorical renditions by Tres Roman and Jef Samonte at The Art Conservatory, G/F, PJ Lhuillier Corporate Center, 1782 N. Garcia cor. Candelaria Sts. (formerly Reposo), Makati City until Nov. 11.

Reflections, an exhibit of contemporary art by Juan Gomila at The Luz Gallery, Locsin Building, corner of Ayala and Makati Avenues, Makati City until Nov. 12.

Free Space, a solo exhibit by multimedia artist Juan Alcazaren at mag:net+ gallery, The Loop 9501, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN Compound until Nov. 15.

A Graphic Arts Adventure, an art show featuring the graphic designs of Disney Feature Animation production designer Hans Bacher, until Nov. 19 at InterContinental Manila's lobby Art Cafe Gallery.

"Waiting for Agamemnon" by Jef Samonte at the Art Conservatory

Music

"This Guy's In Love With You, *Pare*" (Chito Miranda), "*Kailanpaman*" (Kevin Roy) and "*Bakit*" (Gloc-9 and Cooky Chua) are just some of the outstanding songs included in the ***2002 Himig Handog Love Songs*** songwriting competition. The other songs are "*Hindi Na Bale*" (Jessa Zaragoza), "*Sabi Na Nga Ba*" (Tootsie Guevarra), "Love Has Come My Way' '(Heart Evangelista), "Only I" (Dianne De la Fuente), "*Hanggang*" (Wency Cornejo), "*Kung Ako Na Lang Sana*" (Bituin Escalante) and "*Kung Ako Ba Sya*" (Piolo Pascual). The *Himig Handog* Love Songs 2002 compilation album is now available on CDs and cassettes from Star Records. The finals night will be on Nov. 10, 9:30 p.m. at the ELJ Communications Center, ABS-CBN.

Concert Night at the Old Walls, a series of performances presented by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, features tenor Ramon Acoymo and soprano Rica San Agustin on Nov. 9 at the Tanghalang Leandro Locsin, NCCA Building; Teatro Adarsarii's play "*Paglayang Minamahal*" on Nov. 16, Tanghalang Leandro Locsin; UP Dance Company's "*Les Noces*" on Nov. 23 at the Puerta Real Gardens; and the Apo Hiking Society with the Kaibigan Girls Choir on Nov. 30 at Plaza Moriones, Fort Santiago. All performances will start at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

Onstage

What Women Are, a musical revue about a group of friends, who in one night at a bar, strive to understand women after one of them is abandoned by his wife, Nov. 6-10 at the CCP Studio Theater. For details, call 897-8050.

Swan Lake, a ballet in four acts, will be staged at the Francisco Santiago Hall of the Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City on Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. featuring the Association of Ballet Academies Philippines. For tickets, call 818-1403 and 813-3849.

Naligaw na Paniliigaw, Tanghalang Pilipino's presentation of William Shakespeare's comedy "Love's Labour's Lost" with translation by Vim Nadera, Nov. 8-24 at the CCP Tanghalang Aurelio V. Tolentino. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1620.

Atbp

Bando Kotiji, a Kabuki master from Japan, facilitates a workshop on the performance elements and **acting techniques of the Kabuki** on Nov. 4-16 at the Teatro Hermogenes Ylagan, Bulwagang Rizal (College of Arts and Letters), UP Diliman. For inquiries, call 926-1349.

The Jacobo Santiago Zobel Memorial Library (High School) and the Antonio Montemayor Anievas Memorial Library (Grade School) of the De La Salle Santiago Zobel School are sponsoring a half-day forum on **Image and Librarian: An Exploration of Changing Profession** on Nov. 6, 7:30 a.m. to 12 noon at the Debbie Decena Auditorium, De La Salle Santiago Zobel School, Ayala Alabang Village. The forum fee of P150 includes snacks, documentation kit and a certificate of participation. Registration forms may be secured from the DLSZ Learning Resource Center or may be downloaded from www.zobel.dlsu.edu.ph. Return registration forms on Nov. 4. For details, call 842-8449 loc. 1104.

Dero Pedero conducts **Money, Money! Secret Principles of Money and Prosperity**, an enlightening money seminar, on Nov. 6 at 6 p.m. at the roof deck of the Buendia Tower, 501 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., between Taft and Bautista Sts. Dinner is included. For details, call or text 0920-4053233 or email DeroSeminar@yahoo.com.

Alliance Francaise de Manille together with Rouge et Blanc brings ***Sud-Ouest*: A get-together dinner and musical evening**. The delightful blend of two events come together in one extraordinary night of fine dining with live jazz music to follow on Nov. 8, starting at 7 p.m. at Le Coude Restaurant, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II Makati. Tickets for the dinner are available at P1,700 for AFM members and P1,900 for non-AFM members. For details, call 895-7585 and 895-7441.

The Center for Health and Creative Arts offers a four-session course on the ancient Chinese movement exercise **Sheng Zhen Healing Qi-Gong** (Part 1) on Nov. 9, 16, 23 and 30, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Partnership Center, 59 Salvador St., Loyola Heights, QC. For details, call 434-5381.

MCO Arts Festival presents "Swan Lake" at the Francisco Santiago Hall

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules.

Art that Enables

The Peninsula Manila continues with its commitment to promote the talents of disabled but gifted individuals with an exhibition of small works rendered in acrylic by Circle of Friends Foundation Inc. (COFFI) ward Malou Deniega. Deniega was born with cerebral palsy but with COFFI's Personal Effectiveness Program, she was able to avail herself of free painting lessons offered by the foundation and discover her untapped artistic talent. All proceeds from the sale of the paintings will support Deniega and her family. The paintings may be viewed at The Lower Lobby Shopping Arcade of The Peninsula Manila. For inquiries, call COFFI at 887-3040 or email mgloor@attglobal.net.

Artist Malou Deniega

X-manila

The Cultural Center of the Philippines launches the ***Sining sa Eskwela*** project at the Cecilio Putong National High School in Tagbilaran City, Bohol from Nov. 4-8. *Sining sa Eskwela* is a week-long arts and culture caravan of multimedia productions that allow the students and the local communities to experience Philippine arts through performances, exhibitions, film-video showings, poetry readings, workshops and lecture-demonstrations. For details, call the CCP Cultural Exchange Department at 832-1125 loc. 1700-1710.

The internationally-acclaimed **Hunan Acrobatic Troupe of China** will perform in special outreach shows at the City Convention Center in Olongapo City on Nov. 4, 2 p.m. and at the KB Gym in Malolos, Bulacan on Nov. 5, 4 p.m. For details, call 832-1125 loc. 1801-1806.

Pinto Art Gallery (1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo City) features one-person exhibits of contemporary artists Jose Santos III, Pamela Yan, Erwin Leaño and Anthony Palomo until Nov. 17.

Join the Outlet Yard's (1480 Quezon Avenue beside National Bookstore) year-ender **Art Strokes** featuring workshops on Drawing & Sketching in pencil/charcoal (Nov. 9 and 23); pastel drawing (Nov. 10 and 24); watercolor painting (Nov. 16 and 30); oil painting (Nov. 17 and Dec. 7); Christmas Lantern-making (Dec. 8). Registration fee is P150 per session. Open to children and adults. For details, call 740-7221.

Gamay Arkoncel-Dacanay holds her **Zero-Pain Lamaze Class** for women on their fifth to eighth month of gestation and their husbands. The course covers five weekly sessions. Saturday classes will start on Nov. 9 at 4 p.m. Weekday classes will be held every Thursday starting Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m. A special short course spanning one and half weeks is also offered. These are five sessions scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting Nov. 18. For details, call 739-9076.

The **Reading Association of the Philippines** (RAP) celebrates its 30th anniversary as the national affiliate of the International Reading Association (IRA) with a free literacy forum on Nov. 14 at P. Gomez Elementary School from 9 a.m to 3 p.m. In the afternoon, pupils of P. Gomez Elementary school will be treated to storytelling sessions by the IRA officials, past and present members of the RAP Board and guests. Stories to be read will come from Scholastic and Adarna Publishing house. For details, call RAP President Dr. Marietta Reyes-Otero at 425-1409 or RAP Secretary Esperanza J. Chee Kee at 455-9133.

In Memoriam

...from page 4

process becomes."

His energetic and dogged search of man's dark angels in Manila resulted in a first one-man show titled *"Singkong Suka"* (about Filipinos penchant for *tingi* or retail buying), in black and white, at the Solidaridad Galleries in 1971. In his lifetime, he had eight major individual exhibits in prestigious Philippine galleries, including Manila's Hiraya Gallery, Florida's Crane Collection Galleries in 1988, and New York's Philippine Centre in 1989. Silvana Diaz of Galeria Duemila put up a posthumous show of his works on the artist's 60th birthday on July 7, 1997, 10 months after his death. It was followed by another show of Olmedo's drawings on his 65th birthday, on July 7 of this year.

In the '80s, in the latter years of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, Olmedo did a series of works called "Caravans," which portrayed gypsies selling baskets in water buffalo-drawn carts. He also did a black-and-white series on poor people and oppressed women, making him a bona fide social realist who started injecting social dimension and class struggle in his work at that time.

The irony is, Olmedo had perfectly captured poverty's painful poetics and unredeemed darkness, but this had not resulted in resolutions outside of the canvas. Although he had succeeded in making his work speak of visceral pains and the blood of others, he did not make them a mouthpiece of conscience from which revolution could take over, outside of the canvas, away from the gallery.

"I always wonder why people are shocked that my paintings are sad. I don't feel my paintings are sad. My paintings relate. My paintings are staring back at the viewers. *Hindi nakatingin sa iba*," he said. "I find my characters with strong fortitude, who are fighting back without hatred. They are accepting their situation but not losing hope."

Later, Olmedo learned to objectify the pains and the demons of his characters. His works became satirical or social commentaries. His characters' painful expressions became veiled with masks, as in "The Boss and his Secretary," or the "Chairman of the Board." Olmedo's adeptness at psychological portraiture became more apparent with his paintings of musicians. Olmedo succeeded in creating shadows of foreboding terror behind every musician's face, as if they were supreme art warriors whose frailty and loneliness symbolize the elegance and pain of the creative process.

A famous piece titled "Concert at the Alley," which shows a violinist playing on the veranda on top of a fire escape, facing a narrow back door atop a row of motorcycles, won honorable mention at the prestigious International Exposition des Pointures, in Cannes Sur Mer, France in 1992. This piece elevated Olmedo's sense of psychological portraiture and satirical bent to an ultimate metaphysics of opposites, the essence of which is about art that stubbornly lights up from dark and secret corners, not with a vengeance but with a primordial life of its own, the way musical notes glide smoothly out of a gifted throat.

No other Filipino artist dared pierce the isolation of his characters by getting too close to them, changing them at will with predetermined lacerations on his canvas. Yet, no other Filipino expressionist, for that matter, remained as normal, unscathed, and untouched as Olmedo.

He had seemingly disjunctive interests, from chess to horse racing. Every Wednesday, he sat as a judge at the Sta. Ana Race track, a job inherited from his father. He never left it because it gave him a sense of exhilaration outside of his art. He never left his ancestral house in Manila's teeming area of Sampaloc even if wife Bettina, a public relations practitioner, wanted a more quiet and bourgeois life with their two children in a subdivision.

"Maybe, I am more subdued emotionally now. It is happening to me. My paintings are less violent than they were before. Art is therapeutic in a way," he said in an interview three years before his death.

"A great part of me is a happy fellow. I know about angst. I can identify with it, but it has not disturbed me a bit," said Olmedo.

When Olmedo's heart gave up on September 8, 1996, intimate family members, observers, friends, and allies believed what killed him were bad eating habits, lack of exercise, indulgence, and too many ideas in his head. But in their grief, they also saw the real heart of an artist, what it truly craved for. Olmedo always leaped like a giant in depicting pain and depression on canvas, but he was never a monster in life. "His death left a void," says wife Bettina.

Many young artists have seen in Olmedo's work the spirit, the soul, and the depths that would engulf them—the very things they have been looking for in the giants of Philippine art.

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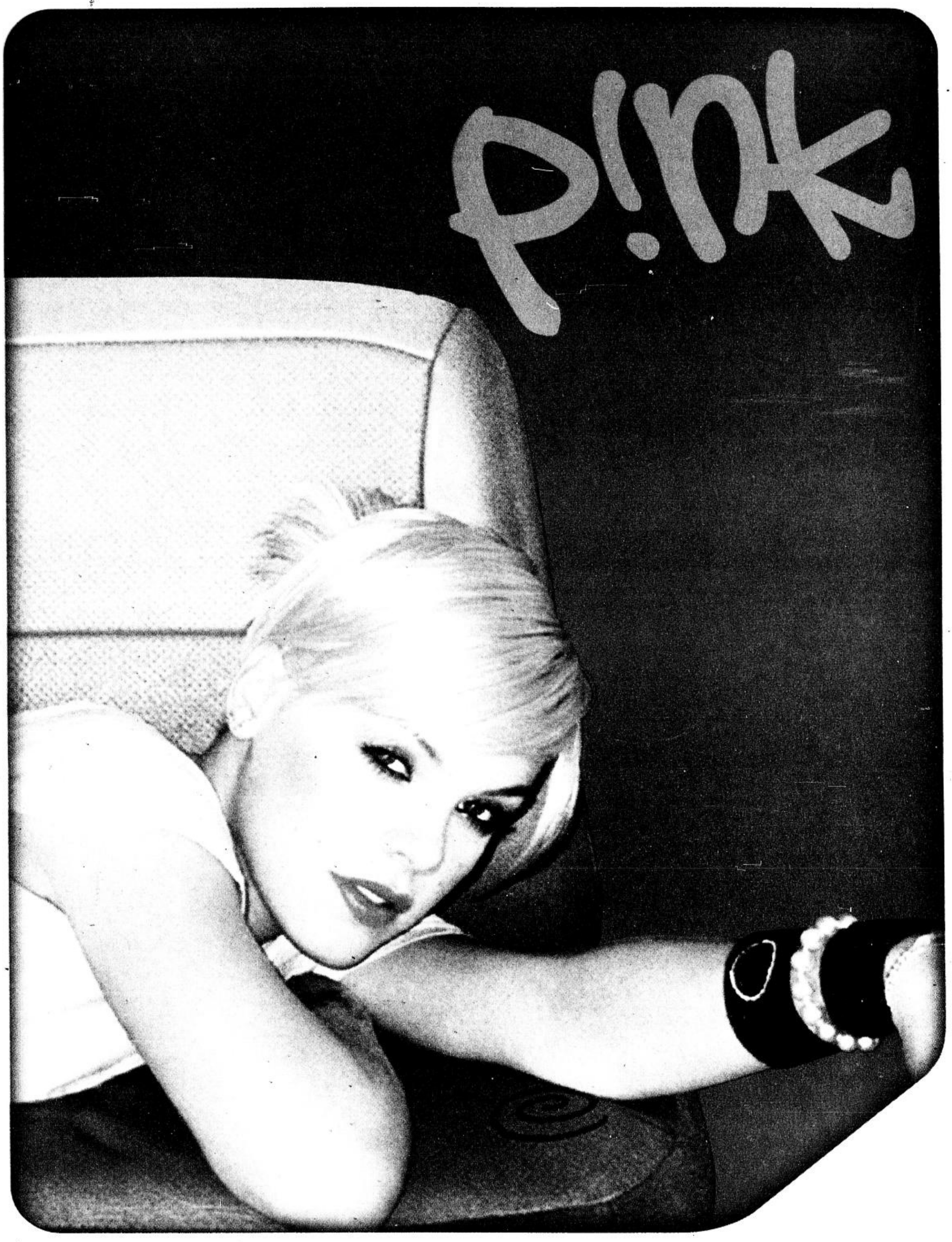

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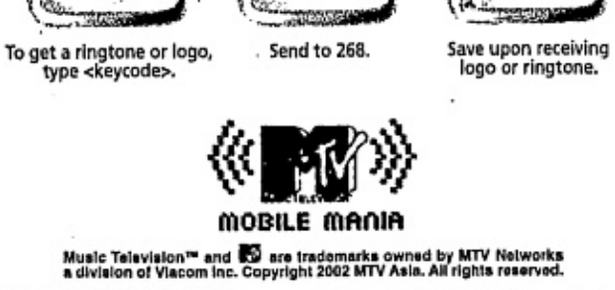

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MILF leader says US out to crush all Islamic groups

Story on PAGE A2

Assunta-Jules civil wedding on Dec. 15

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN CARLOS CITY—It will be a civil wedding in December in this city for Negros Occidental Rep. Julio "Jules" Ledesma IV, 41, and his movie star girlfriend, Assunta de Rossi, 19.

Ledesma yesterday said he and De Rossi had decided to marry in the morn-

ASSUNTA-JULES/ A21

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email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Monday, November 4, 2002 ★ 74 pages / 5 sections / vol. 17 / no. 329 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

China Reds dance to capitalist tune

BEIJING—If you peeped into Beijing's Central Party School in October last year, you might have witnessed a sight that would make any old socialist shudder.

Peter Mandelson, one of the architects of

CHINA/ A19

Thais join RP-led antiterror group

Use of joint armed force proposed

By Carlito Pablo

AND THAILAND makes five.

A ranking Thai official told reporters covering the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cambodia that his country was ready to join the antiterrorism coalition the Philippines had initiated.

Thailand will join Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in the coalition, thus significantly broadening a security alliance in a region regarded as a terrorist breeding ground.

Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai will sign an agreement on the sidelines of the Asean summit being held this week in Phnom Penh, Ted Bunnag, a senior Thai diplomat, said yesterday.

Though all five signatories are Asean members, the security alliance is separate from a joint antiterrorism declaration that members of the 10-nation regional grouping are expected to sign during their annual meeting today and tomorrow.

"This is another channel of cooperation . . . We all suffer from terrorism," Bunnag said.

Under the agreement, member countries will intensify exchanges of security information. They plan to establish and standardize search-and-rescue operations, create hotlines, share airline passenger lists, strengthen border controls and conduct joint counterterrorism exercises.

Thailand had planned to join when the coalition was forged in May, but needed to get the approval of a state

THAIS/ A18

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'BEAUTY WILL SAVE THE WORLD'
Shedding his image as a terrorist sponsor, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi poses with what some wag may describe as his new "bombshells," actually 23 contestants to Miss Net World, his country's first international beauty pageant. They ditched swimsuits and sequins for T-shirts and dresses adorned with Gadhafi's pictures. The pageant's slogan: "Beauty will save the world."

Gov't readies 'attractive' amnesty plan for Reds

By Carlito Pablo, *in Manila*
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

MALACAÑANG is preparing a "more attractive" amnesty program to entice communist "stragglers" to lay down their arms and return to the fold of the law, President Macapagal-Arroyo's spokesperson announced yesterday.

"We are really moving toward extending a hand of friendship. We want to give the rebels every chance to reintegrate in our society," Rigoberto Tiglao said. He added that Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the President's adviser on the peace process, and the National Amnesty Commission were expected to come up with a concrete proposal in the next two weeks.

According to Tiglao, a number of rebels "really want to join mainstream society, but they don't know how."

"These Che Guevarra types of the 1970s are really getting old," he said, making a reference to the legendary Cuban revolutionary who was executed in Bolivia in 1967. "And, in a way, they've become stragglers. They don't know

GOV'T/ A4

EU planning to tag RP as terror haven

By Amando Doronila

THE FRENETIC efforts of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration to establish the Philippines as a bulwark in the Asian "front" of the US-led global war on terror—in which the country has been tagged as harboring al-Qaida networks—has sparked a backlash in the European Union.

ANALYSIS

I am informed by reliable diplomatic sources that the European Union is considering the blacklisting of the Philippines as a terrorist haven, alongside Indonesia, Pakistan and Afghanistan. As a consequence, the European Union has alerted European embassies in Manila on the possibility of imposing tight restrictions on the issuance of Schengen visas to Filipinos, as well as to Indonesians, Pakistanis and Afghans.

The sources say the EU decision will be handed down "within two weeks." Filipinos with Islamic names are likely to be the target of this tight vetting.

A Schengen visa, which is currently relatively easy to obtain, allows its holder to enter any of the 15 EU members, except the United Kingdom. If

EU PLANNING/ A18

Asian tourism reels from West travel advisories

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—A tropical beach with nobody on it may be the stuff of travelers' dreams, but it's a nightmare for many Asian nations after the Bali bombings stirred fears of more terrorist attacks in paradise.

Tourists fled the idyllic Indonesian resort after the blasts killed nearly 200 people last month. And many are avoiding other regional destinations that have seen troubles, including islands in the Philippines where foreigners were kidnapped and parts of South Asia hit by bloodshed and political tensions.

Wealthy Western nations have responded with travel advisories that have infuriated many Asian countries and businesses that depend on tourism.

The affected countries say the advisories, including one put out Saturday by the US state department and covering all of Southeast Asia, are scaring people away from safe destinations and setting up the region for even worse losses.

"They issue advisories based on the first information they receive, not on exclusive intelligence, which is causing panic," said Thai Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai.

Tourism is a major source of cash and jobs in the region, generating receipts of almost $180 billion a year and employing hundreds of thousands of people, according to the Pacific Asia Travel Association (Pata).

The industry's crisis will be in focus Monday and Tuesday when leaders of the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations hold a summit, along with Chi-

ASIAN/ A18

Lucio Tan Day marked in Guam

By Gil Cabacungan

STILL hung over from the long weekend? Filipinos who want to extend their vacation may want to fly to Guam, where today is being celebrated as Dr. Lucio C. Tan Day.

That's right. The taipan who owns Philippine Airlines and a host of other companies has been honored by Guam Gov. Carl T. C. Gutierrez with his very own holiday.

In jest, Gutierrez said at Saturday night's awarding ceremony that Filipinos who comprise eight out of 10 tourist-based workers in Guam, a US territory, could take the day off. (Gutierrez noted that Nov. 5 was already a holiday because of the mid-term elections in the United States.)

LUCIO/ A18

PGH: Buy stuffed toy and give a life

By Blanche S. Rivera

THEY are the stuff hopes are made of, and you can give them away to sick kids this Christmas.

Stuffed toys bearing the "Give a Life" logo will soon be available in malls and shopping centers as another fund-raising project of the Philippine General Hospital, which is in dire need of equipment in its pediatric wards.

Dr. Philip Cruz, chief resident of the hospital's pediatrics department, said the PGH doctors and health personnel were looking for an alternative way of encouraging donations by letting donors play Santa Claus.

Shoppers who want to help the sick children can buy the toys for P500 each, but they cannot keep their purchase. The toys will be given to children in the PGH ward.

The toys bear a "Thank You" card that includes the name, address and telephone number of the donor. The cards would then be hung on the Christmas trees in PGH Wards 9 and 11.

"It's a great way of giving joy to the kids who would be in the hospital on Christmas," Cruz said, adding that the toys would not only be gifts but also reminders that some people care enough to help save children's lives.

PGH/ A21

PHILIP Cruz, chief resident of the Department of Pediatrics of the Philippine General Hospital, shows some of the stuffed toys for young patients. VAL HANDUMON

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Northern Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming more frequent rains over the Eastern section of Luzon. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/11/04/02

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

MILF 'bomb factory' falls

GOVERNMENT troops had taken over an abandoned Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp on Friday, including a bomb-making factory, as soldiers stepped up operations in Sultan Gumander, Lanao del Sur, Camp Aguinaldo reported yesterday.

The soldiers also recovered lists of MILF recruits and financial supporters, and notes on how to make bombs.

The camp, called "Ibnu Abbas," had 11 structures serving as brigade headquarters, communications center, religious school, mosque, quarters, multipurpose hall, mess hall, perimeter bunkers, and an armory for manufacturing explosives.

All the structures had underground bunkers.

Also recovered were two kilos of ammonium nitrate, 60-mm ammunition rounds, a locally made rocket-propelled grenade, dynamite sticks, six blasting caps and detonating cords, a generator, a VHF antenna, military uniforms and medical equipment.

Martin P. Marfil

MILF: US to crush all Islamic groups

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front yesterday accused the United States of carrying out a campaign to crush all Islamic groups in Southeast Asia.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu made the allegation as he accused the United States of making false reports linking the MILF to the al-Qaida terrorist network and the Southeast Asian militant group Jemaah Islamiah.

"We see this as a pattern that anything that associates itself with Islam becomes an enemy of the United States," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Kabalu was reacting to a CNN report broadcast late Saturday that quoted Western intelligence reports as saying Osama bin Laden had spoken to MILF chair Salamat Hashim by phone regarding the establishment of an al-Qaida training facility inside an MILF camp in Mindanao.

"It has become a campaign to crush any group associated with Islam, whether radical or non-radical, and this is a trend that is emerging especially in Southeast Asia," he said.

He challenged officials to conduct an investigation and produce a tape of the alleged conversation between the MILF leader and Bin Laden.

Kabalu admitted that in the 1980s, the MILF sent some fighters to train in Afghanistan, which was then occupied by Soviet forces. But he said the fighters did not train under Bin Laden's al-Qaida.

Kabalu also branded as "all lies" intelligence reports that the MILF had previously set up training camps in this country for al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiah, which is suspected to be behind the Oct. 12 bombing in the Indonesian resort island of Bali that claimed almost 200 lives.

"We have been denying this all the time but no amount of denial can appease the US about these things," he said.

Kabalu voiced fears President Macapagal-Arroyo might feel compelled to follow the US lead.

He said the MILF was pursuing peace talks with the Philippine government and remained committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Mindanao. "So why link the MILF to terrorists?" he asked. *Reports from AP and AFP*

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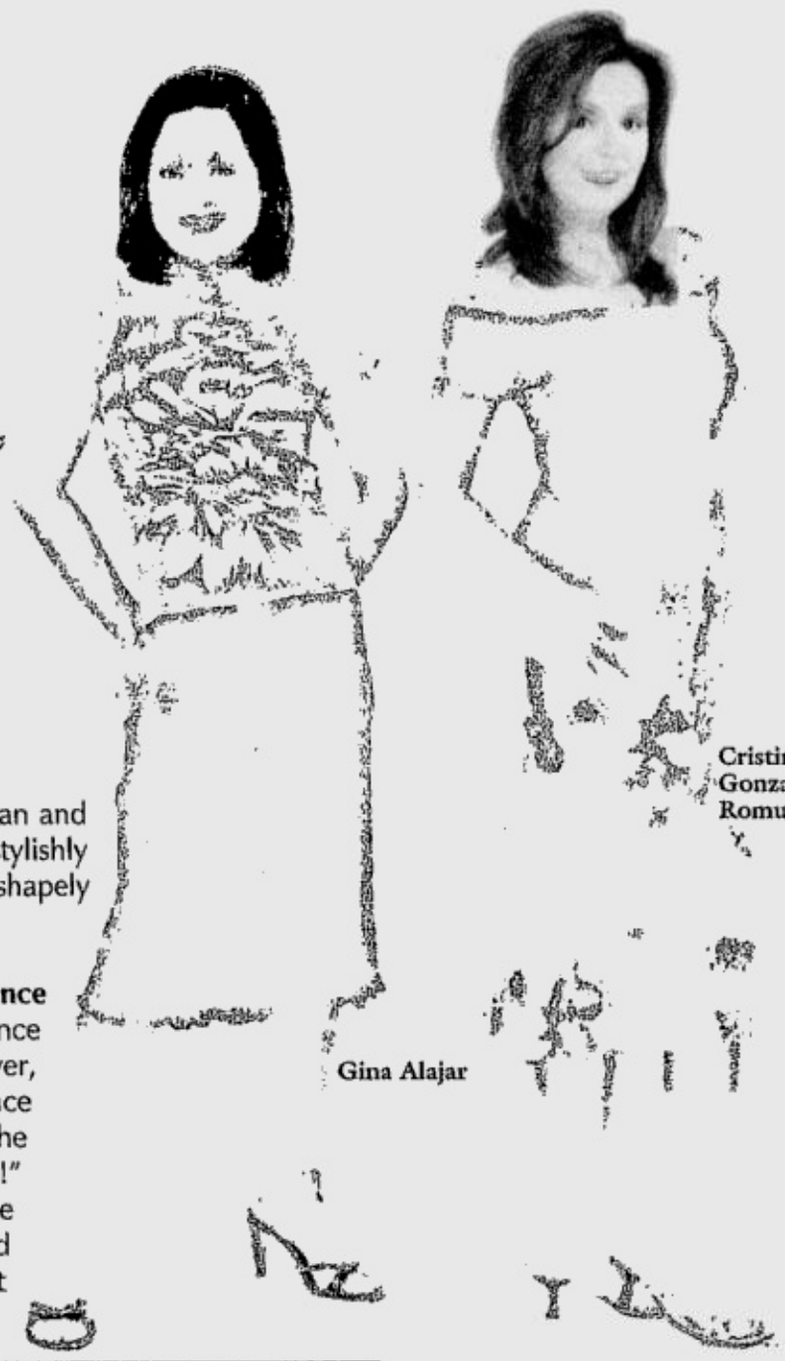


Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez

Gina Alajar

Gina Alajar, Carmi Martin, Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, and Eva Abesamis. A multi-awarded thespian and director, a sexy TV star with a budding career in interior design, a former actress-turned-restaurateur, and a stylishly elegant socialite, respectively. What do these beautiful women have in common? Here's a hint: just look how shapely and sexy they are!

Along with good eating habits and a healthy lifestyle, their other secret to staying in shape is **Marie-France Bodyline International**, the country's leading non-invasive, non-strenuous slimming center. Gina's Marie-France experience began when she wanted to look her best without the flabby areas in her arms and tummy. However, she says she "didn't have the time and energy to exercise because of my work." Slimming down at Marie-France was ideal for her because "I lost inches of fat and flab through its relaxing and effective slimming programme." She adds, "The best thing about Marie-France is that I not only lost my bulges, I also attained soft and shapely curves!" For Cristina, staying in shape wasn't a problem before until she ended up with post-natal fat. "When I became overweight, " she says, "I had a hard time slimming down." She didn't dare take the risk of fat-reducing pills and surgeries so she turned to Marie-France. She adds, "I easily lost 20 lbs. plus extra inches of post-natal fat in just one month! I feel lighter, healthier, more active and best of all, I got my sexy shape back!"

Carmi maintains her sexy, svelte figure with a combination of eating the right food, taking vitamin supplements, doing simple exercises, and of course, her regular visits to Marie-France. Through the FDA-approved Endermologie treatment, she was able to reduce the appearance

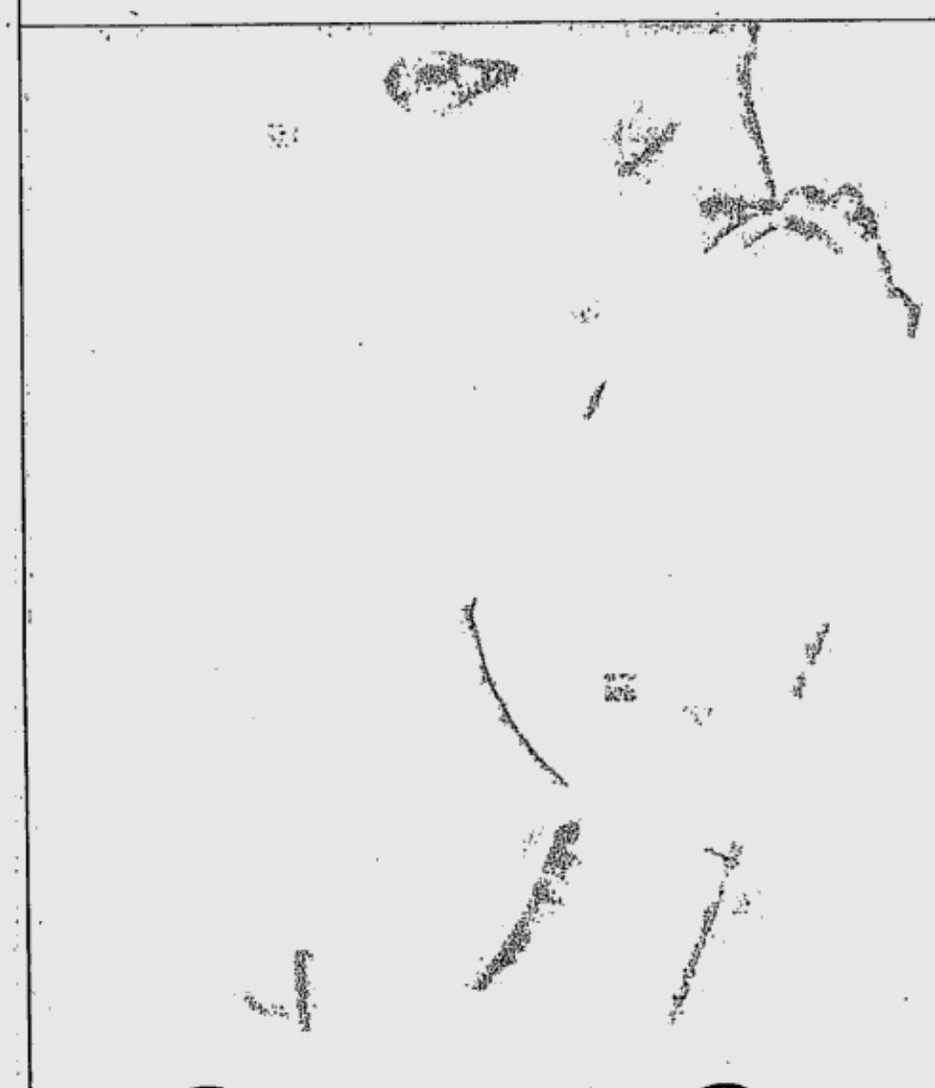
Carmi Martin

of cellulite on her body. "I noticed the results in just a few weeks," she says, "and I find the treatment relaxing and effective." Eva also keeps herself in shape with Marie-France's Endermologie along with regular

Eva Abesamis

exercise. She says, "After 4 or 5 treatment sessions, there's a significant difference. My skin feels smoother and it looks like I've lost a few centimeters on the fat problem areas. I endorse Endermologie because it will really help in solving your cellulite problem!"

Having a sexy image may be a part of being a celebrity. But more importantly, it's a matter of looking your best and feeling good about yourself---even when you're not in the public eye. If you want to experience the slimming secrets of these shapely ladies, contact Marie-France at the following numbers: **816-1262 (Makati) · 687-1216 (Ortigas) · 372-6635 (Timog) · 242-2199 (Binondo) · 809-9619 (Alabang) · 534-5898 (Shaw) · 920-8021 (Congressional) · 961-2981 (Pampanga) and 233-7637 (Cebu).**



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Gov't readies 'attractive' amnesty plan for Reds

From page A1

what is happening in Manila."

He said the Macapagal administration would "make (the amnesty program) more attractive." But he did not go into detail apart from saying that "we have to do all we can."

Tiglao cited the Thai government's own efforts in the 1970s to end the communist insurgency there through such measures as giving land to the rebels.

The administration of President Corazon Aquino had implemented an amnesty program for members of the Communist Party of the Philippines, its armed wing the New People's Army, and allied groups.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes said Saturday that a "policy of accommodation" was open to those who would abandon the 33-year armed struggle. At the same time, Tiglao said the administration was prepared to meet the fiercer war of which the Netherlands-based CPP founding chair Jose Ma. Sison had warned.

But Rafael Mariano, chair of the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, yesterday assailed Reyes, saying: "His so-called 'policy of accommodation' is only one of the Macapagal regime's desperate attempts to push the (insurgents) into capitulation."

Tiglao also said the planned amnesty program was an acknowledgment that the rebels, particularly the CPP mass members, could be considered "patriots."

"We understand that while they are being isolated diplomatically, those in the field, those doing the fighting and dying, are patriots" forced to take up arms because of the unresolved "roots" of the insurgency like poverty, he said.

"They just don't really understand," he said.

Tiglao said he made a distinction between ordinary rebels and their ideological leaders because apparently the latter could not be expected to accept amnesty from the government.

Fighting stance

Sison, a self-exile in Utrecht for more than a decade and chief political consultant of the National Democratic Front, maintained his fighting stance.

In a statement e-mailed to the INQUIRER in Lucena City, he said "the revolutionary forces and people are well-prepared to counter the escalating brutal campaigns of suppression carried out by the military, police, paramilitary, deputized private armies and vigilante groups of the (Philippine) government."

Sison said that in fighting one enemy regime after another, the people were "amassing the strength to ultimately end US domination and the ruling system in the Philippines."

Nevertheless, he said the NDF was still open to peace talks provided the Philippine government apologized for its alleged violation of the peace agreements it had signed.

These agreements include The Hague Joint Declaration, the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees, and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

In response to an e-mailed question, Luis Jalandoni, chief peace negotiator of the NDF and also based in Utrecht, said: "The CPP, NPA and other revolutionary organizations in the NDF will not surrender.

"This was stipulated in The Hague Joint Declaration. The (Philippine government) is violating that fundamental peace agreement by setting as precondition the surrender of the revolutionary forces."

Jalandoni also said the European Union caved in to US pressure by including Sison and the NPA in its terrorist list.

"The Council of the (European Union) does a great disservice to the Filipino people who aspire for a just and lasting peace and have demanded that peace negotiations between the (Philippine government) and the (NDF) be resumed," he said.

Jalandoni described the blacklisting as "without any due process."

"It completely disregards the statements signed by Vice President Teofisto Guingona and more than a thousand Filipinos, the questions raised by 22 parliamentarians from nine (European) countries, 27 (from Sweden), four (from Denmark), and two (from the Netherlands)," he said.

He also said the NDF panel "will not agree to negotiate under duress."

Terror magnet

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople, who had lobbied for the blacklisting of Sison and the NPA, sought beefed-up police visibility around the Department of Foreign Affairs offices in Pasay City and the regions.

"In the wake of this diplomatic victory over the CPP-NPA, the DFA can be a magnet for terrorist reprisals and pro-communist demonstrations as well as vicious propaganda attacks," Ople said in a statement.

The DFA security detail of 15 Marine soldiers were put on heightened alert and its internal security staff has adopted certain measures, including strict implementation of the "No ID, no entry" policy.

"I have also instructed the regional passporting offices spread throughout the country to take the necessary precautionary measures for security," Ople said.

He also said that while the European Union had yet to issue a common position on the CPP and the NDF, Sison's blacklisting "implicates" the two organizations.

Tiglao on Friday offered to meet with his ex-comrades Benito and Wilma Tiamzon, who, he said, were running the CPP-NPA, to convince them to renounce armed struggle. He reiterated the offer on Saturday.

Asked to comment, Sison said by e-mail: "I think the Tiamzons would have contempt for a Philistine hireling like Tiglao."

Jalandoni said: "Tiglao will fail in his malicious plan." *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gerald G. Lacuarta*

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CBCP personnel warned on Christmas gifts

PARANOID over terrorist activities in Metro Manila, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines has warned its personnel to be careful in receiving packages this Christmas as these could contain explosive materials.

In a memorandum, CBCP assistant secretary general Msgr. Gilbert Garcera said CBCP employees should inform the CBCP security staff in case of doubt on the content of packages sent to them.

"Please do not just accept gifts for Christmas. Check the sender and the kind of package," Garcera said in the memo dated

The memorandum came with an information on bomb indicators, the same information being distributed by authorities in public places in Zamboanga, Jolo and Basilan. At least three bombings have been perpetrated in Zamboanga City last month alone, killing at least 15 people and injuring hundreds of residents.

The information on package bomb indicators showed sketches of a bag, box and an 81-mm improvised explosive device, which is often contained in a sturdy material such as a sack or travel bag.

holes and is rigid or bulky, with oily stains on the wrapping. A ticking sound would be a dead giveaway. *Blanche S. Rivera*

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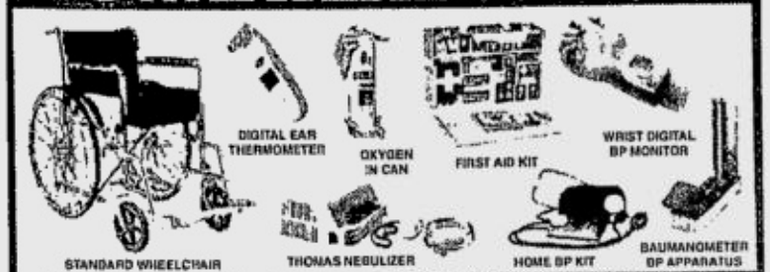

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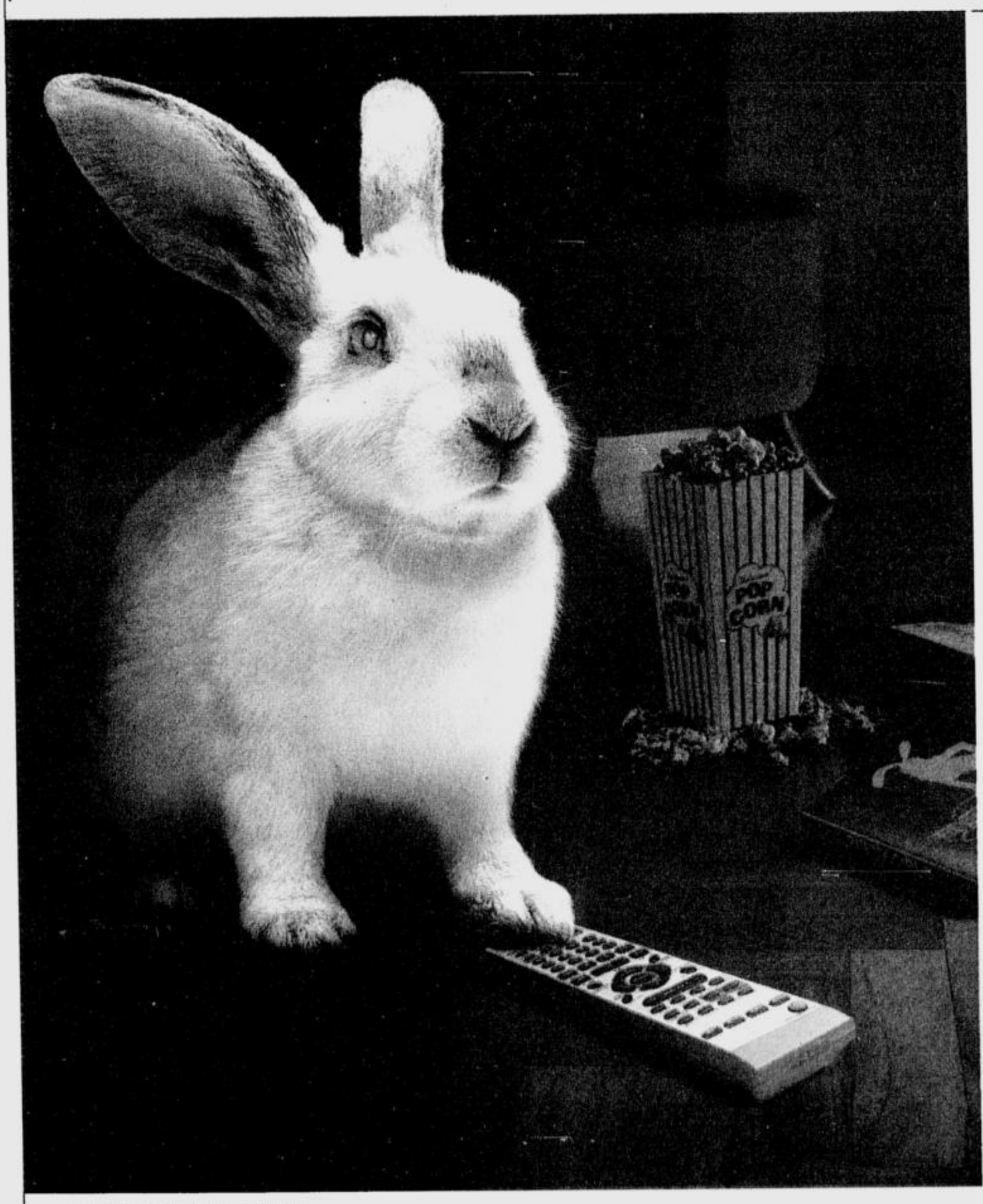

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NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY IN THE PAYMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAX

PURSUANT TO R.A. 7160, SECTION 254 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 1991, HEREUNDER ARE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DELINQUENTS:

	Declared Owner	Area (Sqm.)	Classification	Tax Dec. #	LOCATION / YEAR	Interest Due	Amount of Delinquency
1.	PUBLIC ESTATE AUTHORITY	8,095	COMMERCIAL	E004-01832	DON GALO 2001-2002	466,272.00	1,457,100.00
		45,033	COMMERCIAL	E002-06907	BACLARAN 2001-2002	1,556,340.48	4,863,564.00
		2,304	COMMERCIAL	E002-06908	BACLARAN 2001-2002	11,491.20	35,910.00
		3,768	COMMERCIAL	E002-06909	BACLARAN 2001-2002	18,086.40	56,520.00
		7,976	COMMERCIAL	E002-06910	BACLARAN 2001-2002	38,284.80	119,640.00
		12,584	COMMERCIAL	E002-06911	BACLARAN 2001-2002	60,403.20	188,760.00
		27,714	COMMERCIAL	E002-06912	BACLARAN 2001-2002	133,027.20	415,710.00
		27,002	COMMERCIAL	E002-06913	BACLARAN 2001-2002	129,897.60	405,930.00
		12,773	COMMERCIAL	E002-06914	BACLARAN 2001-2002	441,434.88	1,379,484.00
		4,862	COMMERCIAL	E002-06915	BACLARAN 2001-2002	23,337.60	72,930.00
		28,815	COMMERCIAL	E002-06916	BACLARAN 2001-2002	138,312.00	432,225.00
		7,840	COMMERCIAL	E002-06917	BACLARAN 2001-2002	37,632.00	117,600.00
		12,001	COMMERCIAL	E002-06918	BACLARAN 2001-2002	57,604.80	180,015.00
		5,000	COMMERCIAL	E005-01748	LA HUERTA 2001-2002	288,000.00	900,000.00
		221	COMMERCIAL	E005-01749	LA HUERTA 2001-2002	12,729.60	39,780.00
		209	COMMERCIAL	E005-01753	LA HUERTA 2001-2002	12,038.40	37,620.00
		4,767	COMMERCIAL	E010-08509	SN DIONISIO 2001-2002	274,579.20	858,060.00
		10,915	RESIDENTIAL	E010-08513	SN DIONISIO 2001-2002	167,654.40	523,920.00
	PUBLIC ESTATE AUTHORITY	1,578,441	RESIDENTIAL	E010-06500	TAMBO 2001-2002	6,699,772.93	20,936,790.40
		10,796	RESIDENTIAL	E015-06580	TAMBO 2001-2002	165,826.56	518,208.00
		6,522	COMMERCIAL	E002-06914	TAMBO 2001-2002	375,667.20	1,173,960.00
		1,752	COMMERCIAL	E002-16915	TAMBO 2001-2002	100,915.20	315,360.00
		20,945	COMMERCIAL	E002-06916	TAMBO 2001-2002	1,206,432.00	3,770,100.00
		3,396	COMMERCIAL	E002-06917	TAMBO 2001-2002	117,365.76	366,768.00
		800	COMMERCIAL	E002-06918	TAMBO 2001-2002	3,840.00	12,000.00
		20,310	COMMERCIAL	E005-01748	TAMBO 2001-2002	97,488.00	304,650.00
		71,189	COMMERCIAL	E005-01749	TAMBO 2001-2002	2,460,291.84	7,688,412.00
		137,784	COMMERCIAL	E005-01753	TAMBO 2001-2002	4,761,815.04	14,880,672.00
		837,361	COMMERCIAL	E005-08509	TAMBO 2001-2002	56,809,624.32	177,530,076.00
		5,510	COMMERCIAL	E010-08513	TAMBO 2001-2002	204,249.60	638,280.00
		3,017	RESIDENTIAL	E004-01827	DON GALO 2001-2002	46,341.12	144,816.00
		5,000	RESIDENTIAL	E005-01751	LA HUERTA 2000-2002	132,600.00	330,000.00
				Sub-Total		77,049,355.33	240,694,860.40
2.	D.M. WENCESLAO & ASSOCIATIES INC. TCT-100815	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06716	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-100816	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06717	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-100817	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06718	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-100818	7,720	COMMERCIAL	E015-06719	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,511,190.00	2,952,900.00
	TCT-104641	13,619	COMMERCIAL	E015-06720	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,665,919.25	5,209,267.50
	TCT-99880	21,466	COMMERCIAL	E015-06721	TAMBO 1998-2002	4,201,969.50	8,210,745.00
	TCT-104639	10,531	COMMERCIAL	E015-06731	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,061,443.25	4,028,107.50
	TCT-104640	10,556	COMMERCIAL	E015-06732	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,066,728.50	4,036,435.00
	TCT-104643	10,573	COMMERCIAL	E015-06734	TAMBO 1998-2002	2,069,664.75	4,044,172.50
	TCT-101006	34,540	COMMERCIAL	E015-06735	TAMBO 2000-2002	4,103,352.00	9,325,800.00
	TCT-134310	39,391	COMMERCIAL	E015-06738	TAMBO 1998-2002	7,710,788.25	15,067,057.50
	TCT-134311	25,671	COMMERCIAL	E015-06739	TAMBO 1998-2002	5,025,098.25	9,819,157.50
	TCT-136258	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06771	TAMBO 2001-2002	576,000.00	1,800,000.00
				Sub-Total		37,864,653.75	75,970,642.50
3.	WENDEL HOLDING CO. INC. TCT-108043	53,626	COMMERCIAL	E015-06726	TAMBO 1998-2002	10,498,072.50	20,513,475.00
	TCT-107468	10,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06728	TAMBO 1998-2002	1,957,500.00	3,825,000.00
	TCT-134308	79,384	COMMERCIAL	E015-06736	TAMBO 1998-2002	15,539,418.00	30,364,380.00
				Sub-Total		27,994,990.50	54,702,855.00
4.	MANILA BAY LAND HOLDING INC. TCT-95324	70,000	COMMERCIAL	E015-06715	TAMBO 1999-2002	12,852,000.00	25,200,000.00
5.	MANILA BAY PARK DEV. INC. TCT-135240	13,699	COMMERCIAL	E015-05803	TAMBO 1999-2002	209,594.74	410,970.00
	TCT-136449	7,154	COMMERCIAL	E015-06704	TAMBO 1999-2002	109,456.20	214,620.00
	TCT-136452	5,621	COMMERCIAL	E015-06707	TAMBO 1999-2002	819,541.80	1,770,615.00
	TCT-136454	6,868	COMMERCIAL	E015-06709	TAMBO 1999-2002	1,001,354.40	2,163,420.00
	TCT-136455	5,857	COMMERCIAL	E015-06710	TAMBO 1999-2002	853,950.60	1,844,955.00
	TCT-135242	21,567	COMMERCIAL	E015-06712	TAMBO 1999-2002	3,959,701.20	7,764,120.00
	TCT-135243	1,250	COMMERCIAL	E015-06713	TAMBO 1999-2002	19,125.00	37,500.00
	TCT-135244	1,250	COMMERCIAL	E015-06714	TAMBO 1999-2002	19,125.00	37,500.00
				Sub-Total		6,991,848.94	14,243,700.00
6.	PEDRO ASEDILLO TCT NO.	24,448	LAND	E010-06611	SN. DIONISIO 1979-2002	1,101,854.07	1,374,447.60
				Sub-Total		1,101,854.07	1,374,447.60
7.	S&A GUISANO CAGAYAN INC. TCT NO. 63630	5,000	COM'L. LAND	E009-07973	SN. ANTONIO 1979-2002	2,203,708.14	2,748,895.20
						722,149.92	1,070,208.00
				Sub-Total		422,269.92	566,208.00
						1,144,419.84	1,636,416.00
8.	MOLERA CONST. INC.	3,207	LAND	E009-09438	SN. ANTONIO 1979-2002	710,461.30	902,109.60
						425,956.04	482,728.90
				Sub Total		1,136,417.34	1,384,838.50
9.	TCT NO. BENITO DELA CRUZ		LAND	E010-01896	SN. DIONISIO 1994-2002	5,249.76	4,233.60
							4,233.60
				Sub Total			2,778,144.20
	TCT NO. 154690	252		E010-01897	1994-2002	6,770.40	5,401.80
							5,401.80
				Sub Total			10,803.60
	TCT NO. 154692	252		E010-01898	1994-2002	6,770.40	5,401.80
							5,401.80
				Sub Total			10,803.60
				E010-01943	1994-2002	5,249.76	4,233.60
							4,233.60
				Sub Total			8,467.20
				E010-01944	1994-2002	2,619.36	2,089.80
							2,089.80
				Sub Total			4,179.60
				E010-05411	1979-2002	247,852.00	99,841.80
							99,841.80
				Sub Total			199,683.60
				E010-05412	1979-2002	442,745.12	175,262.76
							175,262.76
				Sub Total			350,525.52
10.	PUBLICA MOTOR SALES CORP.		IMPROVEMENT	E014-04443	SUN VALLEY 1991-2002	442,351.96	193,505.40
							372,516.00
				Sub Total			566,021.40
11.	GABRIEL LOZADA TCT A-PSD 5082	17,076	LAND	E007-07097	MERVILLE 1979-2002	462,049.76	272,737.20
							272,737.20
				Sub Total			545,474.40
12.	DEDERICO DE CASTRO TCT		LAND	E010-06355	SN. DIONISIO 1981-2002	433,032.91	178,699.23
							343,116.42
				Sub Total			521,815.65
13.	BEATRIZ CRUZ TCT NO.		LAND	E010-06479	1979-2002	230,755.82	338,017.80
						144,521.42	189,337.80
				Sub Total		375,277.24	527,355.60
14.	MARIO NOLASCO ET AL TCT		LAND	E010-08471	SN DIONISIO 1979-2002	471,534.20	582,518.92
				E010-06334			
15.	DOMINGO POBLETE TCT-114196	15,378	LAND	E013-01380	STO. NIÑO 1979-2002	388,949.44	225,104.52
							225,104.52
				Sub Total			450,209.04
16.	ROSALINA SALVADOR TCT NO.		LAND	E009-09265	SN. ANTONIO 1997-2002	140,000.40	80,460.00
							160,920.00
				Sub Total			241,380.00
17.	FAUSTINO GATCHALIAN		LAND	E007-07086	MERVILLE 1979-2002	269,991.68	157,954.80
							157,954.80
				Sub Total			315,909.60
				E013-00450	STO.NIÑO 1979-2002	6,114.80	2,642.28
							2,642.28
				Sub Total			5,284.56
				E013-00597	STO.NIÑO 1979-2001	3,176.12	1,866.48
							1,866.48
				Sub Total			3,732.96
18.	PILAR DEV. CORP.			E001-26117	2001-2002	3,421.88	5,346.64
							5,346.64
				Sub Total			10,693.28
				E001-01955	1996-2002	5,143.04	4,311.20
							4,311.20
				Sub Total			8,622.40
	TCT-485741	228	LAND	E001-02352	1982-2002	68,611.96	27,773.28
							27,773.28
				Sub Total			55,546.56
		228	LAND	E001-02372	1979-2002	14,264.48	6,415.92
							6,415.92
				Sub Total			12,831.84
	TCT -464224	586	LAND	E001-02612	1979-2002	36,661.68	16,489.80
							16,489.80
				Sub Total			32,979.60
	TCT -327524	312	LAND / RES.	E001-09682	1979-2002	21,424.96	9,557.16
							9,557.16
				Sub Total			19,114.32

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(Sgd.) LIBERATO M. CARABEO
City Treasurer

SEVERINO

Frustrated over free trade, Asean chief retires

PHNOM PENH—After five years at the helm of Asean, Rodolfo Severino is bowing out frustrated at some Southeast Asian nations' reluctance to open up their markets even as he stoutly defends the group's much-criticized consensus approach to decision making.

The ex-Filipino diplomat retires next month as secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations after assuming his post during one of the lowest ebbs in Asean history—the 1997 financial crisis that plunged most of the region into recession.

His tenure also saw Asean grappling with the smoky haze problem caused by seemingly unending forest fires in Borneo and Asean's membership enlarged to cover the region's lesser developed states—Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

More recently, the terrorist threat following the Oct. 12 Bali carnage has kept Severino busy amid the ominous prospect of fewer foreign investors and tourists to the region.

But when asked what are the biggest challenges facing Asean today, Severino listed "political reluctance" by some of its 10 member-states to open up their markets, as well as the poor understanding of the group's concept by its own peoples.

The silver-haired Severino, 65, voiced his frustrations during an interview with AFP here ahead of the annual Asean summit beginning Monday.

He did not identify the countries that were reluctant to bare their markets to fellow members but warned that such "short-term interest" was a major obstacle to regional economic integration crucial to face outside competition.

Vision 2020

Asean is implementing a free trade area in which its senior members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—will totally abolish tariffs for intra-Asean trade by 2010.

The newer members—Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Vietnam—should dismantle all tariffs 10 years later.

Citing an example, Severino said an Asean framework agreement seeking to free up the region's important services sector "had not been getting far" because some members had scrambled to use it as "a forum for trading concessions."

Severino said Asean leaders had set a "Vision 2020" goal to totally free up trade in the region but, he added, "you have to begin now."

Another of Severino's concerns is that Asean and its objectives had not been fully understood by the people in the region.

"Ignorance runs deep in the sense that people, including of the business sector, don't recognize their stake in the destiny and cohesion of the region," he said, calling for an Asean publicity blitz.

Severino, who will be an associate professor at the Manila-based Asian Institute of Management upon his retirement, also defended the Asean consensus-based approach that analysts have blamed for foot-dragging on issues requiring quick decisions.

The herd

"What is wrong with that?" he shot back when challenged about the issue. "That's unthinking. Somebody in the media says that and everybody without thinking adopts it—the herd (mentality)."

The alternative to consensus could be voting, he said. But he asked, "Do Singapore and Indonesia have the same vote?"

Even in the United Nations Security Council, decision making is increasingly based on consensus, especially on key questions of war and peace, he said, while in the European Union, "unanimity" is being emphasized.

The Jakarta-based Asean secretariat staff say Severino, who will be replaced by ex-Singapore diplomat Ong Keng Yong, is a "team player" and has injected greater efficiency in the organization.

"He believes that Asean despite its limitations has a good story to tell and that it has to be told if the association expects to gain support from its various constituencies," said Asean spokesperson M.C. Abad. *AFP*

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POSITION PAPER

on the Proposed House Bill 4955
or The Medical Malpractice Bill

The **PHILIPPINE OBSTETRICAL AND GYNECOLOGICAL SOCIETY (Foundation), INC. (POGS)** condemns the filing of House Bill No. 4955 otherwise known as the Medical Malpractice Bill.

We firmly believe that it is prejudicial and directly contrary to our professed mission and vision on maternal and fetal health. Our practice is unique in the sense of being responsible for two lives — that of mother and child, and with this comes the paramount responsibility of evaluating benefits and risks of two individuals, simultaneously. Any impediment to the trust that is essential to this unique relationship will only work to the detriment of the patient and her fetus.

The Society adheres to a stringent residency training program of four years, during which built-in audits and corrective sanctions weed out the weakest of the batch. Institutions accredited for training and service undergo rigid inspection and scrutiny to ensure that the program measures up to the standards of excellence set by the POGS, in terms of utmost service to the patient and commitment to advancement in knowledge and skills.

After training, the resident graduate has to pass the written and oral examinations given by the Philippine Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology (PBOG) before he or she can finally claim to be a "Specialist" — a Diplomate and a Fellow of the POGS. Those who are inclined continue and take further fellowship studies in the various subspecialty disciplines and in turn, have to undergo qualifying examinations of their chosen subspecialty Boards.

All these arduous tasks constitute the quest that the Society embarks on its pursuit of dedicated ministration in our chosen vocation of healing, to ensure that those who call themselves "Obstetrician-Gynecologists" are truly equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the discipline.

Our patients are amply protected by existing laws of the land. The Revised Penal Code contains the necessary sanctions for erring physicians. The Professional Regulations Commission monitors the practice of medicine and can revoke the licenses of physicians proven guilty of malpractice. The Philippine Medical Association is another regulatory body that oversees and reviews the conduct of its members. There is no need for additional laws, one as flawed at that, as the proposed bill.

The practice of our profession entails not only patient care for economic reasons, but also several other aspects of the profession that may not be as financially rewarding as private practice, but are more satisfying in terms of spiritual growth and intellectual development. These are our charity work and our academic involvement. With the Damocles sword of malpractice hanging over our heads, these experts will think twice before rendering voluntary charity service. The best minds will hesitate before giving their time and talent to teach and train medical students and resident physicians in the clinics. Those with unrivaled clinical experience and sterling reputations will rather retire than risk their hard-earned reputations to defend themselves against distorted medicolegal cases.

Medicine is not an exact science and doctors are not perfect. Even with the best of intentions, untoward events occur. House Bill 4955 penalizes mistakes of doctors in the same way as criminals and this is not fair. Enactment of this bill will force doctors to practice defensively and will needlessly increase tremendously the cost of medical care for our already impoverished countrymen. We do not want the medical liability crisis that is happening in the U.S. to happen here in the Philippines. We do not want to erode the doctor-patient relationship that is vital to healing. We want to continue practicing in a climate that is built on trust and quality personal attention that has been with us since the beginning.

The POGS is united in saying "Down with the Medical Malpractice Bill!"

SIGNED:

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LYRA RUTH CLEMENTE CHUA, M.D.
Vice President

VIRGILIO B. CASTRO, M.D.
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ADVT

SC upholds party-list ruling

CEBU CITY—It's final.

The Supreme Court has junked a motion filed by the Progressive Movement for the Devolution of Initiatives (Promdi) and four other groups, seeking reconsideration of an earlier ruling disqualifying them from the party-list election.

In an en banc resolution penned by Associate Justice Artemio Panganiban, it ruled that the motion was "devoid of merit."

The four other parties were the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP), the Lakas-NUCD, the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) and the Veterans Federation Party (VFP).

Earlier, the Supreme Court affirmed a resolution of the Commission on Election dated July 27, 2001, which ruled that the groups had failed to meet the guidelines for party-list inclusion issued by the court.

On April 9, the Comelec had a change of heart and qualified the groups, saying they were "bona fide party-list candidates."

Panganiban said that after the Comelec submitted its compliance report, it no longer had jurisdiction to conduct any more hearings to pass upon the matter remanded to it by the court.

Suzzane S. Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau

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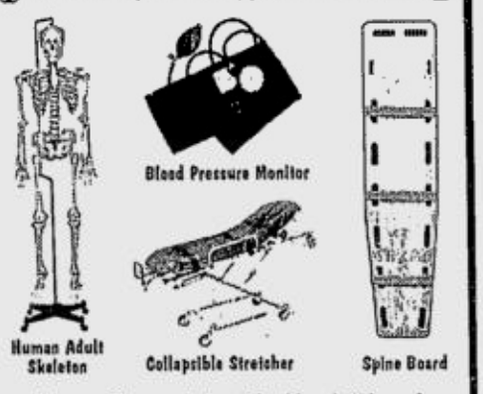

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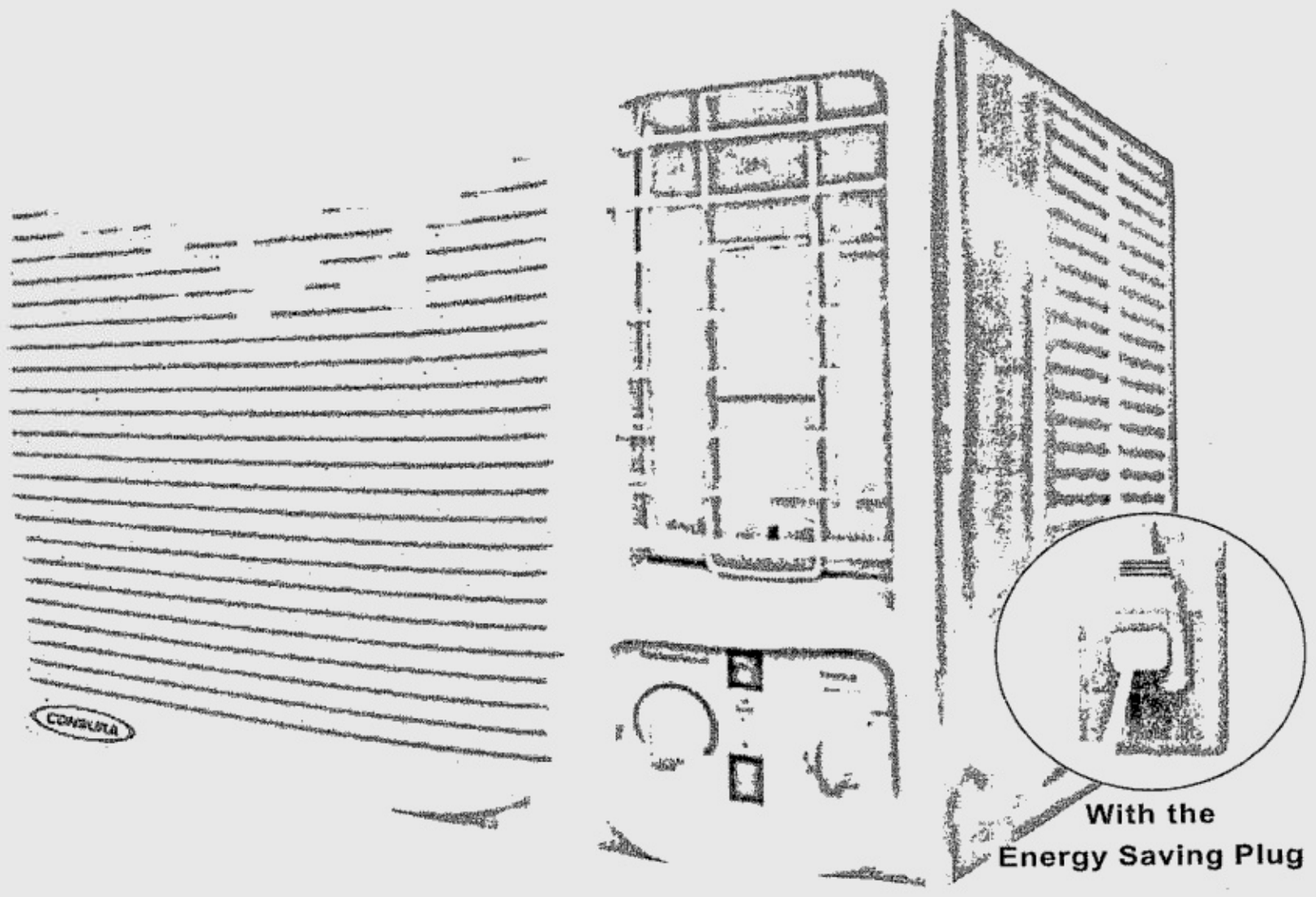

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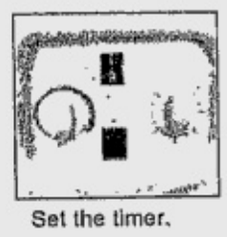

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History now

WE made history today," a beaming Sen. Edgardo Angara, the de facto leader of the opposition, said two weeks ago. "It is a second wind for Philippine politics." He was referring to the passage on third reading of the Senate's version of the absentee voting bill.

EDITORIALS

For once, Angara is right. The long-overdue extension of the central democratic franchise to Filipinos abroad is a true landmark in our history. At the start of the year, we called on the members of the 12th Congress to measure their performance partly by the passage of an absentee voting law. The year seemed opportune for undertaking what is nothing less than a radical reform of the country's electoral system. It is only fair to say that, in spite of great difficulty in a time of political turmoil and economic uncertainty, our legislators have come through.

To be sure, much remains to be done, especially because the Senate bill and the House version, also passed last month, are poles apart on key provisions. But leaders of both chambers of Congress are confident that a law will be hammered into final shape before the end of November.

This would be a fitting Christmas gift for the millions of Filipinos currently overseas. The exact number is still to be determined, not only because statistics tracking the great Filipino diaspora are famously fuzzy, but also because the versions are contradictory. The Senate seeks to grant the vote even to Filipino immigrants abroad, while the House bill wants immigrants disqualified. The difference is a few million prospective voters. Even if "only" some 4.5 million Filipinos abroad qualify, however, the overseas vote constitutes a potent force. In absolute terms, the newly re-enfranchised voters may be enough to elect a President. Recall that in the heavily contested election in 1992, Fidel Ramos won with only five or so million votes—the slimmest plurality in our short history.

The versions also differ on the elective positions at stake, on the manner of exercising one's vote and the effectivity of the new law. The Senate wants to grant overseas Filipinos the right to vote for President, Vice President, senators and party-list representatives, while the House seeks to limit the scope only to the top two positions. Aside from voting in person, the Senate wants to allow voting by mail, something the House does not agree with. The Senate also wants the absentee vote to be exercised starting with the 2004 elections, while a more experiment-minded House wants to limit the vote only to the 2004 elections.

There are other differences, but this much already seems certain. The right of the country's overseas contract workers to vote in elections and plebiscites, boldly set forth in the 1987 Constitution, will finally be a welcome reality.

Hypocrisy then

IT bears remembering, however, that only five months ago, the erstwhile executive secretary of the Estrada administration was quick to rack up cheap political points at the expense of the overseas Filipino.

"We made history today," Sen. Edgardo Angara also said last June, when the so-called new majority "passed" the Senate bill on its third reading during the opposition's rump session.

(His speechwriters could have remembered that particular statement, and advised him last month to avoid the ignominy of repetition. Or did they think all Filipinos have a short memory?)

As we pointed out then, the opposition's "passage" of the bill last June was an act of political hypocrisy, a blithe attempt to hoodwink the public into thinking that the legislative mill was continuing to grind even when the minority's attempted coup had actually driven it into the ground.

True enough, the bill had to be refiled, debated once more, and then passed on second and third readings all over again.

Who did Angara and the rest of the opposition think they were kidding?

Apparently, in the wind-blown world of Philippine politics, Santayana's axiom has been thrown upside down: History repeats itself, first as a rump-session farce, and then (and only then) as history.

More abuses of human rights by BID

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

I GOT a lot of comments for the Oct. 25 column titled "De facto martial law is already here." It was about draconian measures being used on foreign residents here, measures that are identified only with martial law regimes. Persons being arrested and detained without bail for some slight mistake—without a court order and on the say-so of just one individual. Bank deposits being seized by influential people in violation of all banking laws and regulations. The de facto martial law implementer is not the Department of Defense but the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID).

All of these are going on under our noses without our knowing it because the victims are foreigners who have little or no access to media. When they are deported, their voices are silenced. We never hear of the abuses committed against them by our government. They are already far away, in their home countries. We Filipinos are very jealous of our human rights, but the human rights of others are being abused right and left in our own country by our government. Our officials can do this because their victims are foreigners. But foreigners are also human beings with basic rights.

As one example, I wrote about a retired Spaniard with a Belizean passport, lawyer Ramon Collado, who is now detained without bail at the BI detention center in Bicutan. Collado had accepted together with other foreigners, the invitation of the Philippine government to live here in blissful retirement provided each of them deposited US$50,000 in a Philippine bank and paid other fees to the government. Collado organized the retirees into an association, the Prama Foundation, concentrated their deposits in just four banks (instead of being scattered in 21 banks) so that they can get higher interest rates. For that innovation, the four banks gave the Prama Foundation a half-percent management fee and the government's Philippine Retirement Authority (PRA) another half percent.

From this income, which amounted to millions, the Prama Foundation established charity projects. But as always, money is the root of all evil. Soon, Filipino officials and businessmen cast greedy eyes on the millions owned by the Prama Foundation.

The government's PRA forced the banks to double its management fee to one percent, thus depriving the Prama Foundation of its half-percent fee. It also unilaterally terminated Collado's appointment as a PRA consultant and voided the compulsory nature of membership to the Prama Foundation. The source of income of the association dried up and the funding for its charity projects stopped. Black propaganda against Collado spread.

Worse, the association's bank deposits also dried up. Prama complained to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that its bank deposits were transferred to another account belonging to the owners of the bank—all without the permit or authorization of the depository, the Prama Foundation.

Prama went to court and won its case, the PRA refused to obey the court order, however, and its top officials were cited for contempt by the court. They avoided jail by posting bail.

In retaliation, the PRA suddenly found out that Collado has no Alien Employment Permit (AEP)—although he is not, strictly speaking, employed—for which reason it asked the BI to cancel Collado's Special Resident Retiree's Visa (SRRV). Collado therefore became an undocumented alien (because his valid SRRV was cancelled by the BID) and he was arrested to be deported. He did not get any previous notice that he had to get an AEP, nor any notice that his SRRV had been cancelled. Immigration agents just arrived at his office, told him that he had no this and that, arrested him and hauled him to jail where he is still languishing until now. He applied for bail, but it was denied. He petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus with the Court of Appeals but his case still has to be heard.

It turned out that Collado's case is not an isolated one. Dr. Remedios C. Balbin of the Foundation for Social Justice wrote this column that there are other foreigners who have been languishing for a long time at the BID detention center with cases similar to Collado's. It seems that abuse of human rights has become a habit with the BID.

"Your write-ups on Collado uncannily describe the similar case of a Syrian national, Fawaz Cozma, who has been languishing in the BID Bicutan detention center since April 24, 2002 in gross violation of his human rights," Dr. Balbin wrote. His crime? He objected to a television network team's surreptitiously taking footage of him and his guests from Syria, to form part of a feature on Angeles City and "Balikatan" nights. This focused on American GIs and Filipinas doing "their thing" after 6 p.m.

"Fawaz Cozma has resided in the Philippines for the past 16 years," Dr. Balbin wrote. "As a Roman Catholic, he is married to a Pampangueña, a public school teacher in the province. They have two teenage daughters who are both at the top of their classes. Cozma works as the food manager for the Caucasian-American proprietor of the Kokomos Coffee Shop. But for crying out loud, he was slapped with charge of 'malicious mischief' and of 'grave coercion' for insisting that the television crew surrender to him the videotape." *(To be continued)*

Intelligence

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AN INTELLIGENCE report says that al-Qaida, with the aid of the Jemaah Islamiyah, is set to sow terror in Southeast Asia. Their next targets are Taiwan and Cambodia, and Vietnam, and soon to follow are Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore. They will be doing this as part of the first anniversary of 9/11. The region would do well to prepare for this new wave of terror.

That is all very nice, except for one thing: Why?

Why would al-Qaida or the Jemaah Islamiyah or both want to target the countries of Southeast Asia? Why in particular would they want to bomb those countries that are predominantly Muslim? And why would they want to do that as part of the logic of 9/11?

It's these kinds of reports we're being fed daily, and for some strange reason we keep biting into them hook, line and sinker. For some strange reason, we keep describing them as the product of "intelligence" without meaning that as sarcasm.

Those reports clearly are meant to suggest that, like communism during the days of the Cold War, terrorism has become monolithic, unpredictable and driven to conquer the world. Which is meant to suggest further that we would be right to support, among others, a US strike against Iraq, as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her boys in the National Security Council want, because terrorism is just one humongous whole. That was GMA's theme in Apec, for those who cared to listen. The whole world, she said, was in flames, lit up by terrorists who had banded together in an unholy alliance. It was time Apec rallied behind the United States and fought back. If she got anyone to listen, only she knew.

All evidence point to the contrary.

So far, what have we got by way of acts of terrorism? We've had 9/11, we've had the bombing at Bali, we've had the hostage crisis in Moscow and we've had the bombings in various parts of the Philippines. All of which suggest that far from being monolithic, unpredictable and driven to conquer the world, terrorism is fragmented, predictable and driven by desperation.

The attack in New York was done by al-Qaida, or so we assume it to be, though that has never really been proven. What went by way of proof was Osama bin Laden taking the report of 9/11 gleefully. You wonder how George Bush and Donald Rumsfeld would react in private to news of the destruction of an entire section of Iran, Iraq, or North Korea. Is that proof they did it?

We do not know who bombed Bali. We do know however that it was an attack against foreigners, particularly Westerners, and not against Indonesians. That may affect Indonesia in terms of tourism income, but why should its leaders now start fearing that their country is an object of hate by "international terrorists"? Why should the leaders of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the Indochinese countries do so?

The hostage-taking in Moscow on the other hand was done by Chechen rebels, who had been waging a war of attrition against Vladimir Putin's government for some time now. To now see them as having teamed up with al-Qaida for the purpose of world domination is to fly in the face of reason. In each of these, you have a different hand (hence, the fragmentation), you have a different reason (hence, the predictability), and you have a group of people resorting to violence from a sense of being aggrieved. The last does not justify the methods, but it makes the motives intelligible.

There is a more patent act of terrorism that's been taking place right before our eyes, but for even stranger reasons, we are not condemning it as terrorism or seeing its perpetrators as part of an international conspiracy. That is the systematic destruction of Ramallah by Ariel Sharon, or indeed, his systematic destruction of the Palestinian state by laying siege to its duly constituted leader. Sharon now constitutes the biggest threat to peace in the Middle East—he has defied several UN resolutions to cease and desist—but unlike Saddam Hussein, is not only not being ostracized but continues to enjoy US support.

The case of the Philippines finally is explainable in equally rational terms. Maybe some of the bombings were done by terrorists. But if so, then we must ask ourselves, if the terrorists are local, why they continue to pose a threat to society despite Balikatan, and if they are foreign, why they are targeting this country rather than others. The Bali bombings, to repeat, were not aimed at locals, ours are. At the very least, that must make us wonder if GMA is right to put this country in harm's way by her war rhetoric. At the very most, we must wonder about the plight of our OFWs in the Middle East, who are made very vulnerable by that same war rhetoric.

But more than that, the other bombings are not being done by terrorists but by common criminals. The alarming thing in this country in fact, as shown by mayors, ex and current, being gunned down one after the other, on top of kidnapping, robbery, extortion, rape and murder, all in broad daylight, is not terrorism but crime. There is a monumental danger, which media themselves should be faulted with, in lumping the two together. It puts crime beyond the pale of explanation or solution. The equation is that since the mayhem is being wreaked by a nameless, faceless, shapeless mass, the government has every reason to feel powerless before it. The government has every reason to not be able to do anything about it. It is a ready-made excuse for failure. No, more than that, it is a ready-made excuse to reward failure. To now curb crime, which has been promoted to terrorism, the authorities need more budget, more powers and more fascistic methods. That is the real terror.

Next time you hear another intelligence report, ask yourself whose intelligence is being questioned.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Terror threats in Thai island paradise

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

PHUKET, Thailand—I flew to this famed island resort in Southern Thailand for a couple of days, to join my husband who attended a conference of the Asean Council on Petroleum (Ascope). I was eager to see its fabled beauty but at the same time a visit filled me with some trepidation. Phuket, located in the Andaman Sea and connected to Thailand's southwestern coast by a land bridge, is often referred to as its answer to Indonesia's famed Bali, and it was generally thought that with the deadly bombing in Bali more foreign tourists would flock to Phuket. But lately the comparison to Bali has become a source of big discomfort both for the Thai government and the international tourists streaming into this island paradise.

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Phuket's troubles began last week when the Swedish government issued an advisory to its nationals to stay away from Thailand, and especially the island resort, in the wake of the Bali bombing that killed nearly 200 people and injured scores of others. The United States, United Kingdom, Portugal, Denmark (which now heads the European Union), Japan and a number of other countries followed with their own travel advisory to their nationals.

There is apprehension from various countries about an increased threat of terror attacks here, and in fact some people fear that after the Bali bombing the next logical target would be Phuket as it's also quite famous. It was unfortunate that the situation in Southern Thailand was aggravated by a renewed wave of arson and bombings in that area, particularly the Muslim-dominated province of Patani, where a separatist movement appears to be making trouble for the government. Five schools, a temple and a hotel car park were damaged over the past two weeks and last Friday evening, three policemen were shot and wounded in Patani. Five railway stations received bomb threats, though nothing was found.

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The Thai authorities took pains to stress that the various episodes of violence were not related at all to international terrorism, but are traceable to the continuing problem between Muslims and Buddhists in that area. Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has vowed to act swiftly to end the violence in the South. But the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) was naturally quite unhappy over the recent events and the foreign travel advisories, which could affect tourism and investments. The tour operators abroad wanted to know what precautions have been taken by the police authorities, which had to issue a 38-page document on security measures to quell anxieties.

Comments by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, however, were not enough to convince overseas countries. All the tourism-allied industries are said to be panicking over the recent developments, especially since the coming weeks are considered part of the peak season here. Roberto Jotikasathira, ATTA vice president, reported receiving many cancellations especially from tour groups.

Tourism is Thailand's major industry and money-earner now, attracting some 10 million tourists a year, a lot of them from Europe. The tourism authorities had hoped that this year the target would be exceeded by about 70,000 tourists. But if Denmark, which heads the EU, won't lift its advisory, that could affect the projections. The Japanese advisory could also affect the trade as 1.2 million of its nationals yearly vacation in Thailand.

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The Thai Foreign Ministry, however, confessed to being frustrated with the growing foreign advisories, as it stressed that no evidence has surfaced to suggest that Thailand is truly a terrorist target. The conclusion about terrorism moving from Bali to Phuket, it insisted, is purely speculative since, as Foreign Minister Surakiart Sathirathai put it, the advisories "are based on first information they receive, not on exclusive intelligence, which is causing panic." The authorities also stressed repeatedly that the troubles in the South are locally motivated, and not related to international terrorism.

But as in Manila and elsewhere where terrorist threats have become regular occurrence, the threats in Bangkok and Phuket will have a dampening effect on tourism. As elsewhere, the mischievous are having a field day, with the 191 police center in the Thai capital receiving as many as 10,000 emergency calls a day, most of them prank calls.

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But to this Filipino two-day tourist, that dampening effect was not evident, for to my envy, the many flights by the hour from Bangkok to Phuket as well as from other foreign destinations to the island resort appear full. The Ascope conference, hosted by the Thai Petroleum Authority, was held in the beautiful JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, a new sprawling hotel of Thai-Malay architecture, about 30 minutes drive from downtown, and it had a lot of Europeans, Americans and Japanese. We were toured around the most famous and the rowdiest beach in Phuket, Patong Beach, and it had a lot of Caucasian sunbathers. In the evenings, Patong Beach came alive with night-life and it looked like business as usual in the bars and clubs. The cavernous auditorium at the big "Phanta-Sea" show, that is Phuket's pride, was nearly capacity full.

But the tour operators confess that things have not been the same since the Bali bombing, or for that matter, as far as the Western tourists are concerned, since Sept. 11. The terror threats and news of the episodes of violence in the South have somewhat hurt the industry and if the violence is not arrested, it could affect it over the long term. We noted, for instance, that while the tourists keep coming to Thailand, since hotels in Bangkok are full, they avoid the crowded places, such as that notorious tourist-trap, Patpong. The tourists are learning their lesson.

No error's too small

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

NATURALLY polite or timid?

That question usually pops into mind whenever I read letters from readers who call my attention to what they consider minor or inconsequential mistakes in the news and photos of the INQUIRER, including those of columnists.

These letters are often apologetic in tone. The readers belittle the value of their comments or observations on news reports and ask for understanding for "wasting" my time reading their letters. Because of the prevalence of this writing style, I often wonder if there is something in our culture that promotes low esteem for one's self.

This is not typical Filipino, is it?

A reader from Tondo, Manila, who (not surprisingly asked that his identity be held under wraps, used this approach when he wrote to me about a news report that came out in the Oct. 26 issue of the INQUIRER.

His letter reads: "I am sorry to bother you about this matter that I will discuss with you. It is just a very small item that I know may inconvenience you but I think it deserves to be written about.

"What I am referring to are the items that came out on Saturday, Oct. 26, in the INQUIRER that I think is simple but at the same time, in my opinion, is important. In the Across the Nation section, there was a news report of NPA rebels attacking the tower station of Globe Telecoms in Loon, Bohol.

"The same report, however, appeared at the Second Front Page under Newsbriefs. In both cases, the name of the writer of the news, Chito Fuentes, appeared. One is right after the headline and the other at the end of the news.

"How can this duplication of news happen in a newspaper that is supposed to be modern and advanced in technology? I think your newsbrief was just a space-filler so that the newspaper will not look bare? Do you have very few news reports that you have to repeat your news?

"This is not the first time that this happened. I have seen this happen in other sections of your newspaper but I did not complain because I thought it was a simple matter. This time I finally decided to write to you because this has already gone too far."

Feedback

Before I take up the news reports subject of the reader's letter, I would like to share my thoughts on his self-deprecating statements. I do not consider it an inconvenience on my part to look into the complaints of readers no matter how "trivial" they may seem to be in their appreciation.

The newspaper believes that when a reader sends an e-mail, calls or writes about something he noticed or did not like about a news report or photo, the editor concerned or this columnist is obliged to, at least, acknowledge receipt of the message. The better course of action, of course, is to look into and make the proper explanation or apology, as the case may be.

Who was it who said that if something is worth doing, it is worth doing it well? The same principle applies in this case.

More than giving the readers the opportunity to express their opinion on the events happening around us, the letters serve as a mechanism by which the INQUIRER gets feedback from its customers on how well or poorly it is living up to its responsibility of giving the public "balanced news and fearless views."

No error is so minor or inconsequential as to be ignored. A mistake is a mistake. It doesn't matter if other readers did not notice it or, if they did, found it unnecessary to call the newspaper's attention to it.

The reader who goes out of his way to tell the editors about his observations does the newspaper a big favor because it is appraised of its shortcomings and is given the opportunity to take the appropriate measures to avoid their repetition.

Coordination

Now, let's go to the subject of the reader's complaint.

He is right. The news about the NPA attack on the tower station of a cellular company came out twice—in the Second Front Page and the Across the Nation section. Except for the length of the story, they were one and the same thing.

How did that happen? I learned that it was a case of lack of coordination. There were actually two sources for the news. One was the report filed by the Visayas correspondent, Chito Fuentes, and the other was a press release from the cellular company.

As Murphy's Law would have it, the story submitted by Fuentes separately caught the attention of the editors in charge of the two sections and they separately decided to use the news item. Something went wrong somewhere.

No, this was not a case of filling up an empty space to give the impression that the newspaper carried enough news that justify the price the subscribers pay for it. There are enough news reports in the newspaper's database to fill its pages even without the ubiquitous advertisements.

Believe it or not, there is such a wealth of news and articles for the newspaper that some correspondents have been heard to complain about the non-publication of their stories they submitted to the desk. It must be frustrating for these writers not to read (and get paid for) the fruits of their efforts while some stories are repeated in the same issue.

No doubt, the INQUIRER goofed in this instance. It begs the indulgence of the reader for the error. It may look minor to the reader, but to the newspaper it is substantial. *Perdon me.*

The editorial staff has taken the appropriate steps to prevent a repeat of the double publication. But this is no assurance that the error would not rear its head again in the future.

If that happens, this column will appreciate hearing from the readers who notice it so the editors concerned can be promptly informed about it. Reminders are always welcome to open minds.

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The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Street Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

CIA analysts try to make sense of it all

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tabassum Zakaria

LANGLEY, Va.—Fifty years after its founding, the Central Intelligence Agency's analysis section is trying to assess the next move of an adversary that has attacked, and the potential danger posed by one the United States wants to strike.

The Directorate of Intelligence, established in 1952, has gone from estimating the Soviet threat to assessing the threat from al-Qaida and Iraq. But its basic mission is still trying to make sense of complex and contradictory intelligence for the president and policymakers.

"It's certainly a period of growth for us. It's a period of increased speed and volume," Jami Miscik, CIA's deputy director for intelligence who heads the analysts, said in an interview with Reuters at the CIA headquarters outside Washington.

Last year's Sept. 11 attacks made intelligence a central factor in the fight against terrorism as the United States vowed to destroy al-Qaida—the group it blamed for the hijacked plane strikes that killed about 3,000 people.

The 50th anniversary of the directorate, to be celebrated at the CIA this week, comes after a year of heavy congressional scrutiny into why intelligence agencies failed to uncover the Sept. 11 plot, but also at a time of increased funding and recruiting.

The US campaign forced al-Qaida to scatter from bases in Afghanistan, but leader Osama bin Laden has eluded capture.

Miscik says she has to believe Bin Laden is alive.

"I think he has been a master over the years, long before 9/11, of keeping his whereabouts hidden. I think the number of people who know where Osama bin Laden is on any given day or night is pretty limited," she said.

"And clearly since Sept. 11th when he knows that he is obviously the target of an international manhunt, that number has probably contracted even more," Miscik added.

"From my position, I have to assume he is (alive) until proven otherwise because that's the right way to approach it analytically," she said. "If I approached it from the opposite, we might be missing key intelligence questions and assessments that we need to give."

After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, analysts were pulled off other issues and assigned to terrorism. For example, a team looking at world leaders shifted to terrorism leadership.

"We have a much deeper, greater understanding of linkages, individuals' relationships with each other, the networks that exist," Miscik said. Materials from Afghanistan and debriefings of key al-Qaida detainees have provided new insights.

The central leadership of al-Qaida gives a lot of responsibility for planning operations to local levels, she said. "They bless in concept an idea and then allow others to figure out the particulars of carrying it out," she said.

The focus now is on discovering where al-Qaida is trying to establish new footholds.

"We're always worried about places where you have a failed state or elements of a failed state... so there might be a pocket in a remote corner where people can set up operation and operate with some impunity," she said.

"I think we see a variety of those. What we have not yet seen is a single replacement for Afghanistan, what we see is pockets of people going different places." Miscik declined to specify locations. But other US officials have said it appeared al-Qaida was trying to regroup in areas neighboring Afghanistan and in Yemen.

The CIA has been criticized over its assessment on Iraq from opposing corners. Policymakers pushing for war want to see stronger evidence linking Baghdad to al-Qaida, while congressional Democrats complained the CIA was only providing views that supported the Republican administration's efforts to make a case against Iraq.

"I think that we have people on both sides of the spectrum saying things about CIA analysis, that probably puts us where we need to be which is in the middle," Miscik said.

Her department assesses Iraq's weapons capabilities, motivations and intentions. "We just present the information. Some people will say that that makes us the skunk at the garden party. The phrase I've used is that you have to speak the truth as you see it," she said.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey, who believes there are links between Iraq and al-Qaida, dismissed the controversy over whether the CIA was politicizing its analysis on Iraq.

"That's nonsense," he said. Models for state sponsorship of terrorism from the 1970s and 1980s where evidence was based on whether a foreign government financed or ordered an attack was the wrong approach for Iraq, he said.

"Al-Qaida has never been sponsored by anybody, they're too rich," Woolsey said. But common enmity toward the United States has brought al-Qaida and Baghdad together at times, he said.

"They're like two mafia families: they hate each other, they kill each other from time to time, but they hate us more. So they're perfectly capable of getting together on an ad hoc basis," he said. "And we finally have the CIA seeing that."

Reuters

Books for the barrios, not pork for the pigs

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met with a lot of big, important people during her recent trip to the United States. But among them, none is more deserving of our appreciation than a certain lady who labors tirelessly at a nondescript warehouse office, stacked to the roof with *balikbayan* boxes, filled with school books, bound for places like Basilan and Tawi-tawi, Negros, Bicol and Benguet.

Her name is Nancy Harrington. She supports poor public schools in the Philippines by endowing them with libraries of high quality math, science and English textbooks. Imbued with the vision that inspires our own people power revolution in education, she has shown by doing, not talking, how ordinary people, working together, can solve the world's problems. Not with politics or ideology, for she deals with government, citizen and rebel alike. Not with religion and prejudice, for hers, is a blind and selfless love of humanity, whether lumad or Muslim or Christian, Filipino or American, as brothers and sisters.

"Just like us!" is the simple mantra she imparts to thousands of American children and families about the universality of the human condition. Her call to is to make common cause with Filipino children and families against the ignorance that breeds poverty and the hatred that leads to war.

She invites schoolchildren and their parents to help in the packing of textbooks, dictionaries and reference books to fill the steady stream of containers bound for underprivileged schools all over the Philippines. Then, in a moving presentation of Philippine music, culture, schools and society that always follows, these young Americans encounter young Filipinos just like them, through pictures, videotapes and Nancy's stories of personal experience in the Philippines. Judging by the comments of even the very youngest children afterwards, it is evident they shall never see prosperity and liberty's protection, in the same light again. For they leave, forever transformed by what they have seen and heard, and her simple example of earnest zeal.

During a little-heralded 10-minute ceremony last week, Nancy presented to Gloria, the five-millionth textbook of the Books-for-the-Barrios program. This is her decades-long project of the heart, to lift the lowest of the low in our country, with the blessed gift of light and learning. Her NGO's activities are supported by private persons and enlightened corporations, and even a second mortgage on her own house. How many Filipinos would do the same for their own country?

Hers is the best kind of foreign direct investment, one of intellectual capital. She invests in Filipino minds, to build the shining cities of the future, with books as bricks, and for mortar, the enduring friendship of our two peoples. The only wage she collects is happiness. The only profit she repatriates is goodwill. She radiates an infectious enthusiasm.

I was privileged to sit with Nancy during the program at San Francisco's Louise Davis Symphony Hall, which was packed by a standing room crowd of Filipinos and Americans who came to hear Gloria speak last Tuesday.

Mayor Willie Brown presented the President with the keys to City by the Bay, whose locks, he said, he had recently changed, because he had made the mistake of giving the keys to Erap. The crowd roared its approval of Mayor Brown's praise for the People Power II Revolution.

Gov. Gray Davis, meanwhile, paid tribute to the Filipinos of America, now its largest Asian minority, by acknowledging their contribution of talent and industry, to the world's democratic melting pot. It was a poignant moment when he asked the contingent of aging Filipino veterans to stand and receive his humble salute, which they proudly returned. Earlier, the governor signed landmark health care legislation and other benefits for them. He is running in tomorrow's polls, and is likely to win reelection.

Loida Nicolas-Lewis, head of TLC Beatrice Foods, and lawyer Rodel Rodis, San Francisco's highest Filipino elected official, also spoke at the event, showing the growing political power of the community, nearly a million strong in California alone and 3-4 million nationwide (nobody seems to know the exact number). They announced plans for a global convention of overseas Filipinos to be held in Manila next year, spearheaded by the North American Federation of Filipino-American Associations.

There were also two or three noisy professional protestors, but they were just ignored by the audience. Besides, the slouching, almost bum-like misdemeanor of the First Gentleman at center stage (indecorously crossing his legs and acting bored while fiddling with some electronic gadget), seemed to attract even more of the audience's frowning disapproval.

The President's speech was unremarkable though well-applauded. But I was thinking about the P100 billion annually devoured by the Department of Education. Where does it all go? The priorities of the education budget are skewed in the wrong direction. Only a very small percentage is actually spent on educational materials like books, labs, computers, classrooms, desks and facilities for teachers and students. The lion's share is eaten up in administrative overhead, over-centralization, bureaucratic inefficiency and epic corruption.

What does the government have to show after trillions of pesos spent? It is time to plug that burning hole in the budget, time to deprive the venal syndicates and the *trapos* of Congress, of their power to beggar the treasury and use education for the purposes of politics. We need books for the barrios, not pork for the pigs. Nancy's example needs to be multiplied a thousandfold.

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Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

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He is right. The news about the NPA attack on the tower station of a cellular company came out twice—in the Second Front Page and the Across the Nation section. Except for the length of the story, they were one and the same thing.

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After the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, analysts were pulled off other issues and assigned to terrorism. For example, a team looking at world leaders shifted to terrorism leadership.

"We have a much deeper, greater understanding of linkages, individuals' relationships with each other, the networks that exist," Miscik said. Materials from Afghanistan and debriefings of key al-Qaida detainees have provided new insights.

The central leadership of al-Qaida gives a lot of responsibility for planning operations to local levels, she said. "They bless in concept an idea and then allow others to figure out the particulars of carrying it out," she said.

The focus now is on discovering where al-Qaida is trying to establish new footholds.

"We're always worried about places where you have a failed state or elements of a failed state... so there might be a pocket in a remote corner where people can set up operation and operate with some impunity," she said.

"I think we see a variety of those. What we have not yet seen is a single replacement for Afghanistan, what we see is pockets of people going different places." Miscik declined to specify locations. But other US officials have said it appeared al-Qaida was trying to regroup in areas neighboring Afghanistan and in Yemen.

The CIA has been criticized over its assessment on Iraq from opposing corners. Policymakers pushing for war want to see stronger evidence linking Baghdad to al-Qaida, while congressional Democrats complained the CIA was only providing views that supported the Republican administration's efforts to make a case against Iraq.

"I think that we have people on both sides of the spectrum saying things about CIA analysis, that probably puts us where we need to be which is in the middle," Miscik said.

Her department assesses Iraq's weapons capabilities, motivations and intentions. "We just present the information. Some people will say that that makes us the skunk at the garden party. The phrase I've used is that you have to speak the truth as you see it," she said.

Former CIA Director James Woolsey, who believes there are links between Iraq and al-Qaida, dismissed the controversy over whether the CIA was politicizing its analysis on Iraq.

"That's nonsense," he said. Models for state sponsorship of terrorism from the 1970s and 1980s where evidence was based on whether a foreign government financed or ordered an attack was the wrong approach for Iraq, he said.

"Al-Qaida has never been sponsored by anybody, they're too rich," Woolsey said. But common enmity toward the United States has brought al-Qaida and Baghdad together at times, he said.

"They're like two mafia families: they hate each other, they kill each other from time to time, but they hate us more. So they're perfectly capable of getting together on an ad hoc basis," he said. "And we finally have the CIA seeing that."

Reuters

Books for the barrios, not pork for the pigs

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo met with a lot of big, important people during her recent trip to the United States. But among them, none is more deserving of our appreciation than a certain lady who labors tirelessly at a nondescript warehouse office, stacked to the roof with *balikbayan* boxes, filled with school books, bound for places like Basilan and Tawi-tawi, Negros, Bicol and Benguet.

Her name is Nancy Harrington. She supports poor public schools in the Philippines by endowing them with libraries of high quality math, science and English textbooks. Imbued with the vision that inspires our own people power revolution in education, she has shown by doing, not talking, how ordinary people, working together, can solve the world's problems. Not with politics or ideology, for she deals with government, citizen and rebel alike. Not with religion and prejudice, for hers, is a blind and selfless love of humanity, whether lumad or Muslim or Christian, Filipino or American, as brothers and sisters.

"Just like us!" is the simple mantra she imparts to thousands of American children and families about the universality of the human condition. Her call to is to make common cause with Filipino children and families against the ignorance that breeds poverty and the hatred that leads to war.

She invites schoolchildren and their parents to help in the packing of textbooks, dictionaries and reference books to fill the steady stream of containers bound for underprivileged schools all over the Philippines. Then, in a moving presentation of Philippine music, culture, schools and society that always follows, these young Americans encounter young Filipinos just like them, through pictures, videotapes and Nancy's stories of personal experience in the Philippines. Judging by the comments of even the very youngest children afterwards, it is evident they shall never see prosperity and liberty's protection, in the same light again. For they leave, forever transformed by what they have seen and heard, and her simple example of earnest zeal.

During a little-heralded 10-minute ceremony last week, Nancy presented to Gloria, the five-millionth textbook of the Books-for-the-Barrios program. This is her decades-long project of the heart, to lift the lowest of the low in our country, with the blessed gift of light and learning. Her NGO's activities are supported by private persons and enlightened corporations, and even a second mortgage on her own house. How many Filipinos would do the same for their own country?

Hers is the best kind of foreign direct investment, one of intellectual capital. She invests in Filipino minds, to build the shining cities of the future, with books as bricks, and for mortar, the enduring friendship of our two peoples. The only wage she collects is happiness. The only profit she repatriates is goodwill. She radiates an infectious enthusiasm.

I was privileged to sit with Nancy during the program at San Francisco's Louise Davis Symphony Hall, which was packed by a standing room crowd of Filipinos and Americans who came to hear Gloria speak last Tuesday.

Mayor Willie Brown presented the President with the keys to City by the Bay, whose locks, he said, he had recently changed, because he had made the mistake of giving the keys to Erap. The crowd roared its approval of Mayor Brown's praise for the People Power II Revolution.

Gov. Gray Davis, meanwhile, paid tribute to the Filipinos of America, now its largest Asian minority, by acknowledging their contribution of talent and industry, to the world's democratic melting pot. It was a poignant moment when he asked the contingent of aging Filipino veterans to stand and receive his humble salute, which they proudly returned. Earlier, the governor signed landmark health care legislation and other benefits for them. He is running in tomorrow's polls, and is likely to win reelection.

Loida Nicolas-Lewis, head of TLC Beatrice Foods, and lawyer Rodel Rodis, San Francisco's highest Filipino elected official, also spoke at the event, showing the growing political power of the community, nearly a million strong in California alone and 3-4 million nationwide (nobody seems to know the exact number). They announced plans for a global convention of overseas Filipinos to be held in Manila next year, spearheaded by the North American Federation of Filipino-American Associations.

There were also two or three noisy professional protestors, but they were just ignored by the audience. Besides, the slouching, almost bum-like misdemeanor of the First Gentleman at center stage (indecorously crossing his legs and acting bored while fiddling with some electronic gadget), seemed to attract even more of the audience's frowning disapproval.

The President's speech was unremarkable though well-applauded. But I was thinking about the P100 billion annually devoured by the Department of Education. Where does it all go? The priorities of the education budget are skewed in the wrong direction. Only a very small percentage is actually spent on educational materials like books, labs, computers, classrooms, desks and facilities for teachers and students. The lion's share is eaten up in administrative overhead, over-centralization, bureaucratic inefficiency and epic corruption.

What does the government have to show after trillions of pesos spent? It is time to plug that burning hole in the budget, time to deprive the venal syndicates and the *trapos* of Congress, of their power to beggar the treasury and use education for the purposes of politics. We need books for the barrios, not pork for the pigs. Nancy's example needs to be multiplied a thousandfold.

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Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

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The Filipino's finer achievements

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

NOT a few have argued that the P50 million paid by the Government Service Insurance System for Juan Luna's "Parisian Life" could have been put to better use, providing additional benefits to impoverished government employees.

I agree. But I am somehow reminded of a disciple telling the others that the perfume applied on Jesus could have been sold instead to feed the poor.

We Filipinos are of many kinds in the regard of other countries. We are domestic helpers to Singapore, illegal aliens to Malaysia, comfort women to Japan and terrorists to the United States. There is one factor common to such disparaging names: poverty.

It is poverty that has driven many of us to seek greener pastures abroad or to embrace a life of crime that is temporarily rewarding. We have bodily needs that should be satisfied at all costs.

What is not adequately provided for in our drive for physical comfort or satisfaction is the Filipino soul.

Our skills in labor and sports are well known. We are, however, better in the arts, such as music and painting, which are most often ignored in a regime of globalization or world competitiveness.

I believe that such work of art should have gone to a foreign collector or to another country, so that the world will know that we are also a nation of world-class painters.

Each Filipino has a body that craves for sustenance, but he also has a soul that can transcend physical hunger to create what is spiritually uplifting.

The world should know that. Let it have the Luna painting and the other works of our better artists.

—ARCHIMEDES S. MARQUEZ, 420 Gov. A. Pascual St., San Jose, Navotas, Metro Manila

A differing view on sex and procreation

I WOULD just like to react to the letter sent by G.M. de Vera Jr. ("Sex is for procreation," PDI, 10/29/02) His arguments smack of insensitivity and arrogance typical of the Catholic Church. What I can't understand is why these people continue to impose their own beliefs on everybody. We are in a democratic society and everybody has the right to choose what to believe in. There are other faiths and institutions with differing views on sex in our country and the Catholic Church shouldn't impose its own.

If a person believes that sex is only for procreation, fine, let him adhere to that. But if somebody believes otherwise, and would like to take contraceptives, why deny him his choice?

De Vera also mentions that a layman should not rely only on his own conscience but should follow the guidance of the Church. Let me add to that that the layman should not stop here and consider also the opinion of other institutions (secular or religious), scientific findings and studies, and recommendations of health experts. As for the "exhaustive studies" De Vera is talking about, most scientific (and therefore, more reliable) studies have proven that natural family planning methods are bound to fail in almost all cases, not only in "isolated cases" as De Vera opines. How could you enjoy your children as God's gifts to you if your whole family is hungry? I suggest that people opposing contraceptives visit the city's slums and the remote barrios in the countryside, to see firsthand if faith is enough to fill the poor people's needs.

I am neither for abortion nor premarital sex. I am just against some people's anointment of themselves as moral authorities imposing their beliefs on other people and violating their rights. I urge all couples out there to fight for their right to plan for their family's future. I urge all women to fight for their right to reproductive health. I urge all Filipinos to fight for their basic right to access information on contraceptives. I urge all Filipinos to think for themselves and do what they think is best for them within the law, and not to let a single institution or religious authority map out their lives for them. Only they will be responsible for how their lives turn out. God has given us the gift to make plans and make choices to determine what our future will be. Let's stop this attitude of accepting whatever comes our way as the will of God.

—DEXTER BERSONDA, bersondad@wpro.who.int

Education is key to nation building

I BELIEVE that for our nation to grow, men of goodwill from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao should learn to work together. We have to heal the wounds of rebellion, the sufferings caused by poverty and politics and solve many other problems to build a strong nation.

As a people, we have to learn how to make the government our servant, instead of letting it become a master, to promote the general welfare. But we have to educate our people first so that they will learn to rule. To quote Abraham Lincoln: "As each man has one mouth to be fed and one pair of hands to furnish food, it was probably intended that the particular pair of hands should feed the particular mouth, that each head is the natural guardian, dictator and protector of the hands and mouth, and that being so, every head should be cultivated and improved."

Our nation is like an adolescent—mischievous, naughty and oftentimes adventuristic. It needs a wise ruler to properly adjust and guide his behavior.

If only our government would recognize that knowledge and skills are the prime movers of economic growth and prosperity, the people would behave well and feel happy. This becomes a reality if the government is ruled by a dedicated and honest person who is full of wisdom, which makes him more powerful than 10 rulers.

—RIC A. LAGMAN, 20 Escort St., Village East, Cainta, Rizal

Quick Senate action needed

LAST June 30, 2001 during the first regular session of the 12th Congress, Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste filed Resolution No. 20, "directing the committee on environment and natural resources, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of legislation into the endangered status of the Tamaraw and the government measures for the conservation of the species."

Because the clock is ticking fast, I urge the Senate committee on environment and natural resources headed by Sen. Robert S. Jaworski to act immediately on the said resolution, as the number of tamaraws is dwindling fast (please note that we had 10,000 tamaraws way back in 1900 but now we have only 187) and if I may quote from the said resolution, the tamaraws "may become extinct five (5) years from now if the destructive hunting activities remain unabated."

—PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City 1805

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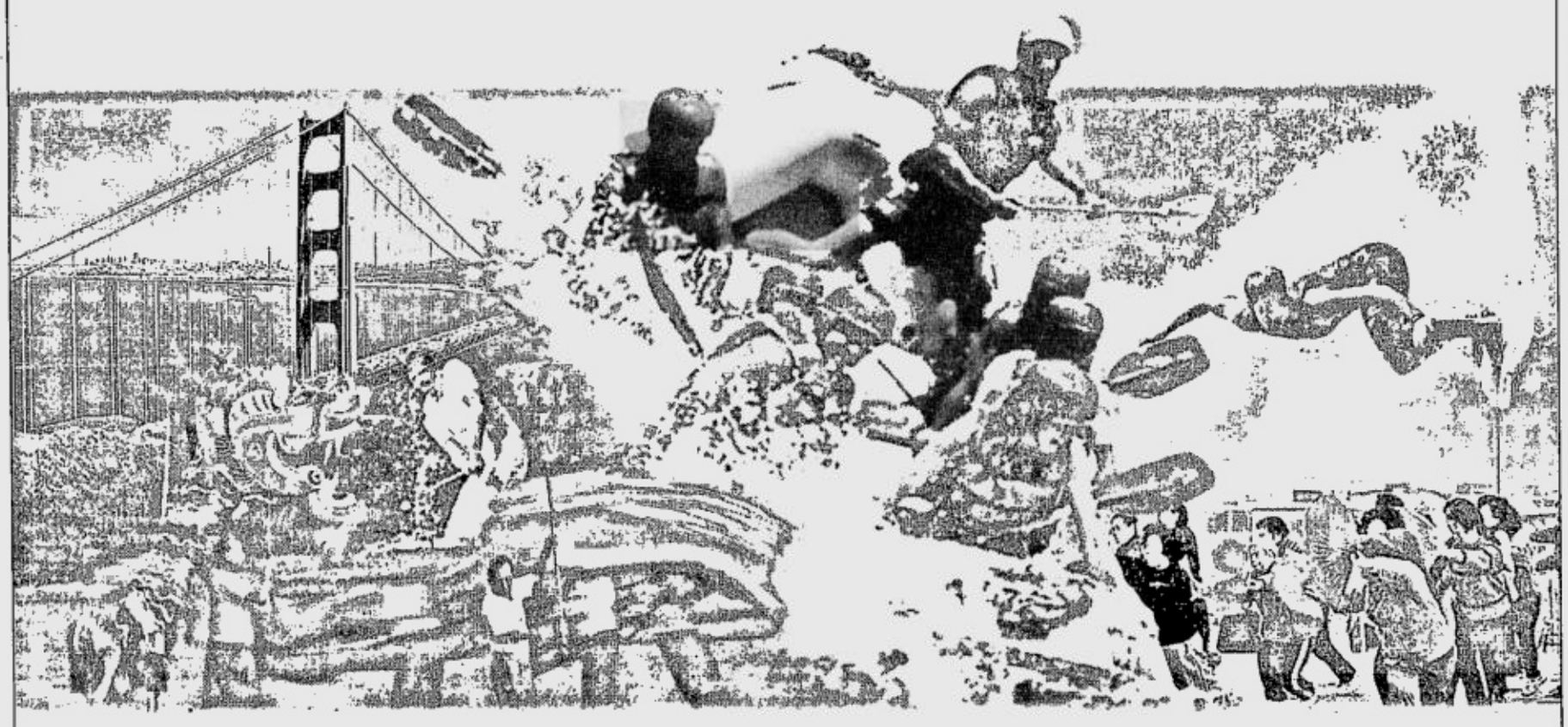

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Incensed at purchase of Luna painting

THERE are two reasons why I am incensed by the Government Service Insurance System's purchase of the Luna painting "Parisian Life."

Firstly, I feel it is highly improper for the GSIS to use its members' contributions to buy an expensive painting for its museum, even if the purchase is labeled as a "good investment." I am amazed that Winston Garcia, the GSIS general manager, said that the stock market was not in good shape and the GSIS was looking for a place to invest in, adding, "we don't know where to invest our money." Supposedly, the GSIS has an excess liquidity of P2 billion and he doesn't know how to invest that money. Well, I can only say that if he doesn't know where to invest that money, he is not doing his homework. He owes it to the GSIS members to find the right investments for such excess liquidity in spite of the currently very difficult global financial market. Definitely, the solution does not lie in buying paintings at art auctions.

The second reason why this GSIS purchase has raised my ire lies deeper than the financial misappropriation of the GSIS funds. I ask myself, why are we Filipinos so hot about Luna's "Parisian Life"? Is it because our ineradicable colonial mentality makes us so proud that we can, once in a while, mimic the fine graces of our colonial masters? When you look at that painting, can you find anything "Filipino" about it? But it is so great because it is indistinguishable from paintings of Europeans of that period!

This brings me to the bigger picture of our country's problems. We are not progressing because we lack the needed focus on our priorities. We are not serious about our economic development. We are just playing around, catering to whims and vanities instead of rolling up our sleeves and doing our homework seriously.

—FELIPE REYES, reyesfx@yahoo.com

Hapless subdivision dwellers

THE INQUIRER'S Metro section last Oct. 24 gave some hope to the exasperated residents of the cluster of subdivisions in Barangay San Antonio, San Pedro, Laguna. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources finally came to the homeowners' rescue.

But their high expectations, however, turned to frustration. We monitored dump truck movements coming from R. Magsaysay Road to Narra Road leading to the dump on Oct. 25 from 8:30 p.m. to 8:30 the following morning. To everybody's dismay, the 103 10-wheeler trucks were on their way toward the open dump nearby.

The garbage trucks' access to the dump through the unlighted and deteriorated main access of the R. Magsaysay Road made life more miserable all around.

Another major concern brought to the attention of and still unacted on by the DENR are the piggery operations on Narra Road of the Holiday Hills, Leslie and Kings farms.

Anent the above, we raise the following questions:

1. To Mayor Felicisimo Vierneza—Why should we be so generous and hospitable and unreasonably accommodating to the nearby cities and other municipalities while converting San Pedro into a community of rubbish? We can tolerate San Pedro's uncollected garbage and unsightly streamers and billboards along the thoroughfares. We plead, however, that our children be spared from respiratory and skin related illnesses, dengue and hepatitis caused by pollution from transported solid waste from Metro Manila and even Calamba.

2. To the DENR—Does the department have monitoring and enforcement units to ensure strict and consistent compliance with its "close and desist" order?

What should be done by the captive and hapless subdivision owners?

—VICENTE E. CAMARA, Filinvest Southpeak Homes R. Magsaysay Road, Barangay San Antonio, 4023 San Pedro, Laguna

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Big business banks on new China leaders

SHANGHAI—Global corporate leaders gathered in Shanghai on Sunday said they were confident a new generation of Chinese leaders set to assume power this month would honor pledges to prise open the massive domestic market.

Despite the most sweeping changes in China's top echelons in years, heads of multinational firms from General Motors Corp to PepsiCo Inc said they were certain the country's trundling economic reform train would not be derailed.

"Perhaps in the short term, the reforms would go slower than they go faster. But in the long term there is no doubt where China is going," said Franz Humer, chairman and chief executive of German pharmaceuticals company Roche Holdings AG.

"I see no reason in any way to change our strategy simply because there may be some change in the leadership. I think the policies are very clearly set," Humer told reporters on the sidelines of an annual conference hosted by Shanghai's mayor.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Premier Zhu Rongji are expected to relinquish their party posts at the 16th Communist Party Congress to open on Friday, making way for younger brass.

The transition is watched by the business community because at stake is a large but strictly regulated market, for everything from telecoms to automobiles, but which should gradually open up under China's commitments to the World Trade Organization.

Analysts have said essential Chinese economic reforms could slow if the new leadership lacked the stamina to pursue painful overhauls of everything from a mountain of bad bank loans to bloated payrolls at state enterprises and corporate corruption.

Some also suggest hardliners of holding up liberalization, sparking bitter disputes like the one that erupted this year between foreign couriers and the state postal monopoly over rules proposing to limit foreign express mail business.

But despite the possibility of occasional hiccups, the new lineup—expected to be headed up by Hu Jintao, now vice president—should keep China firmly on a pre-determined reform path, corporate bosses said.

"I can't imagine, with any transition in Beijing, that there would be any change in the focus and the desire to grow the country," said Richard Wagoner, chief executive of the world's biggest auto company General Motors.

"If we invest, if we grow our businesses, then we find we can be good partners with governments," he said.

Wagoner and heads of some of the world's largest companies, from beverage titan Coca-Cola Co to banking giant HSBC Holdings Plc, are in Shanghai for an annual meeting with the mayor of China's richest city and economic engine. *Reuters*

ACTRESS Carina Lau Ka-ling gets support of the public and hundreds of entertainers including Jackie Chan. REUTERS

Actress' nude photo sparks outrage in HK

HONG KONG—Hundreds of people, including Hong Kong showbiz stars, have petitioned the government Sunday over the publication of a nude photo of a local film star in a magazine while she was allegedly being held against her will.

Around 350 people held up banners—some bearing the chinese characters for "Not Allowed"—while show biz stars took turns to take the stage to make speeches slamming Eastweek magazine for infringing privacy and breaching media ethics.

Many of the protesters, including Kung Fu star Jackie Chan and canto-pop legend Leslie Cheung Kwok-wing, also sported red ribbons as a sign of unity against the magazine.

The feisty Chinese-language Eastweek magazine sparked outrage among the public, actors and politicians for using the picture of the actress on the cover of its latest issue, which hit newsstands on Oct. 30.

The actress at the center of the photo scandal, Carina Lau Ka-ling, also stepped up on stage to tell those wishing to hurt her that she was tougher than they thought.

"To those people who support me, and to those who wish to harm me, I have one thing to say to them: I have strong confidence and belief in myself," Lau said, adding that if the suffering she had to endure revealed the way in which the Hong Kong media operated, it would have been worth it.

Albert Yeung, Emperor Group chair and Eastweek owner on Saturday had ordered the magazine to stop publication immediately saying he was "deeply ashamed and infuriated," after it came under heavy criticism for publishing a nude photo of the local actress. However, the protesters insisted the matter would remain unresolved in spite of the decision to halt publication.

The picture was reportedly taken when the veteran actress was kidnapped about 12 years ago and shows her in some distress. Although her eyes were shaded out in Eastweek, many in the territory could still easily identify her.

Yeung again apologized for his magazine's decision to put the picture into print on Sunday adding it was heartbreaking for him to stop publication of the tabloid magazine. "I am very sorry and we were wrong to publish it . . . the decision to stop publication of the magazine is similar to the feeling of killing my own children," he said.

Eastweek president Chan Yiu-on, chief editor Mun Hon-ming and editor Wong Kim-man have taken responsibility for choosing the unsavory cover art.

The three were to resign once the incident is resolved.

In an earlier statement, Eastweek had stood by its decision to publish the picture, saying it was "based on the spirit and principle of revealing the truth and exercising public monitoring on society."

But it backtracked on Saturday after the picture's publication attracted widespread condemnation and sparked a heated debate on media ethics.

The commissioner of Television and Entertainment Licensing has said a record number of complaints—more than 300—had been received regarding the photo. *AFP*

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Police foil kidnapping of Posh Spice

LONDON—Victoria "Posh Spice" Beckham, the pop star wife of England soccer captain David Beckham, said she was in "total shock" after British police foiled an alleged plot to kidnap her.

Scotland Yard said on Sunday armed officers had arrested nine people across the London area on suspicion of conspiracy to kidnap and theft following a tip-off from the tabloid News of the World, whose reporters had infiltrated a gang of Romanians and Albanians.

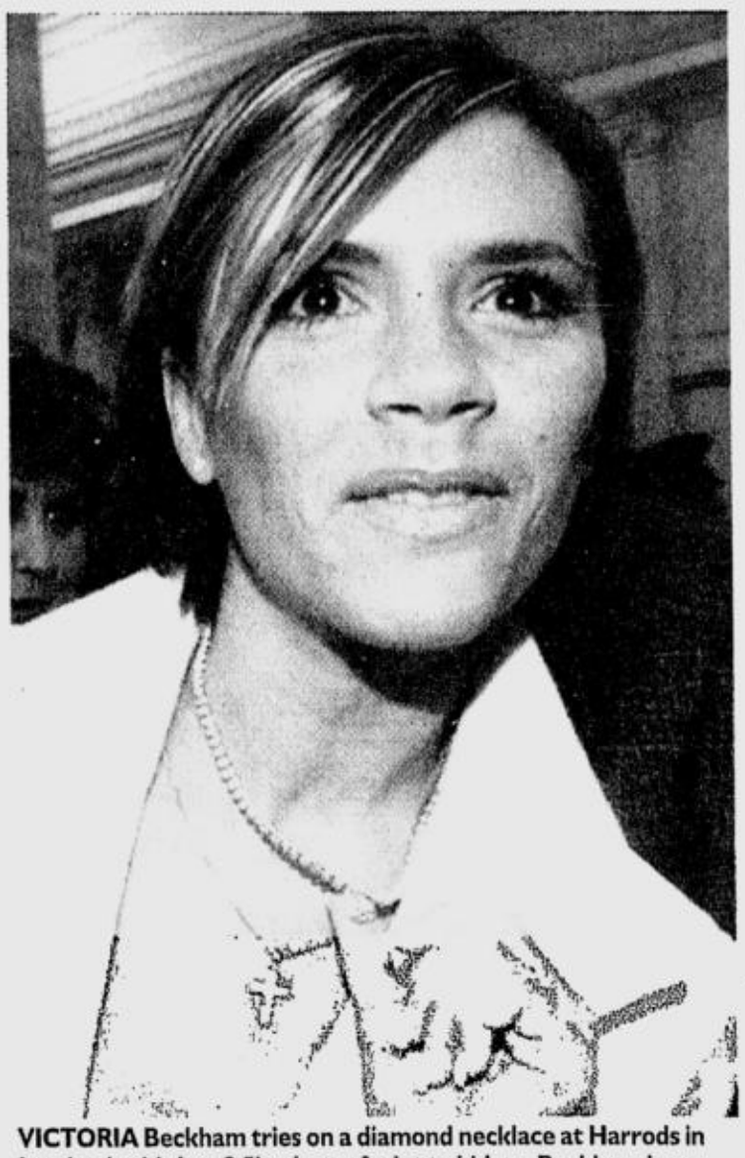
"I'm in absolute and total shock," Victoria, a member of the Spice Girls and one of Britain's best-known celebrities, told the Sunday newspaper. "It's clear these people were serious and that, of course, has scared the life out of me."

The News of the World said the gang had planned to demand a ransom of $7.8 million after seizing Victoria and, if necessary, her sons—3-year-old Brooklyn and 2-month-old Romeo—some time before the end of December.

The paper said the gang planned to sedate Victoria with a chemical spray and hold her hostage in a house in south London.

"As a result of information from the News of the World, SO7 Kidnap Unit conducted an operation today to arrest a group of individuals who are suspected of having been involved in theft and a conspiracy to commit kidnap," said Detective Chief Superintendent John Coles, head of London's anti-kidnap unit.

Scotland Yard said four men and one woman in London's Docklands and in Morden, south of the capital, were arrested on Saturday. On Sunday, a man and woman were held in Croydon, south of London, as part of the kidnap inquiry. Two other men were arrested as part of the theft investigation.



VICTORIA Beckham tries on a diamond necklace at Harrods in London in this Jan. 2 file photo. A plot to kidnap Beckham has been foiled after the arrest of several suspects. REUTERS

The nine were being held at central London police stations.

Victoria was at Manchester United's Old Trafford ground on Saturday afternoon to watch her husband and his team beat Southampton 2-1. Victoria had known of the threat but did not tell David until after the game, Sky News said.

Victoria has been the target of a kidnap scare before. The Beckhams hired a bodyguard after newspapers reported in January 2000 that police had uncovered a plan to snatch Victoria and Brooklyn Beckham and hold them for a ransom of one million pounds. No arrests were made.

Last July, a woman was detained under the Mental Health Act following allegations she broke into the hallway of the couple's Cheshire home, near Manchester, and stole their mail.

"We have good security. But if people want to do this to my family how can you be 100 percent sure you'll prevent it?" Victoria told the News of the World.

Victoria shot to stardom in the 1990s as part of the "Spice Girls" and was nicknamed "Posh Spice." The band has sold about 40 million albums worldwide.

This year, she has been seeking to salvage her flagging solo career with a new single. *Reuters*

Indonesia quake kills 2, leaves 5,000 homeless

JAKARTA—A powerful earthquake that struck near Indonesia's Sumatra island killed at least two people, injured scores and left more than 5,000 people on a nearby island homeless, officials said on Sunday.

Houses and other buildings on Simeulue island—part of Aceh province at the western end of Indonesia—were flattened in the quake which hit at 8.30 a.m. on Saturday and scientists warned of more aftershocks.

Geoscience Australia said the the quake's center was under the Indian Ocean about 200 km southwest of the North Sumatran capital of Medan. Simeulue, about 75 km from the epicenter, is around 800 km west of Singapore.

"Considering how big the quake was, we may see more aftershocks for a week or so," said Fauzi, the Jakarta-based coordinator of Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics center.

Local government official Muhammad Riswan said tents had been set up to shelter about 5,300 people left homeless by the quake, which US and Australian scientists said measured around 7.5-7.7 on the Richter scale.

"We badly need rice and foodstuffs to feed these people and also medicine. We have sent rescue teams to remote villages in the western and southern parts of the island to check the situation there," Riswan, regency secretary, told Reuters.

He said the island's only hospital was waiting for the Indonesian Red Cross to evacuate some of the injured to the mainland for better treatment.

One doctor said it was difficult to tell if the number of casualties would rise as parts of the 100-km-long island could not be contacted.

"There might be more casualties . . . I have not received any news from the western and southern parts of the island yet. There are no phone lines to the western part of the island," Dr Hanif told Reuters by telephone.

Hanif said the number of injured grew to around 50 from 40 overnight but only 11 of those were in hospital, one in a critical condition. The two deaths were also reported overnight.

There are also some medical clinics on the predominantly fishing island of around 60,000 people.

Officials said residents were nervous as there had already been two aftershocks and there were warnings more were possible.

Patients were moved back inside the hospital early on Sunday after an evacuation forced by the first aftershock around 5 p.m. on Saturday. Estimates of its size ranged from 4.8 to 6.2 on the Richter scale.

Many people too scared to stay in their homes overnight, roamed the streets or slept under plastic sheeting.

"The residents are calmer now although they still fear more aftershocks," Hanif said. *Reuters*

Blast suspect released

JAKARTA—Indonesian police have released a man they had detained based on his resemblance to one of the composite sketches of three suspects in the Oct. 12 Bali bombing, the head of the investigation said Sunday.

"He was released yesterday (Saturday) because it turned out that he had nothing to do with the Bali case," Inspector General Made Mangku Pastika told AFP.

He said the man had been arrested following information from residents of Bajawa on Flores island on Friday was then flown to Bali for questioning under police escort.

"He appeared to be someone suffering from intense stress and no coherent answers could be obtained from him. The only thing was that he looked like one of the three suspects," Pastika said.

Indonesian police on Wednesday made public composite sketches of three suspects in the car bombing that killed more than 190 people.

They said the three men, all Indonesians and at least two of them believed to be from Java island, are suspected of having executed the bombing and have been put on the nation's most wanted list.

"We have not arrested anyone since, but we have received a lot of information from the public concerning the sketches," he said but declined to elaborate further.

Indonesian Police Chief General Da'i Bachtiar, speaking to journalists at the airport after seeing off President Megawati who left for a regional summit in Cambodia, said that every lead would be followed and checked. *AFP*

Bashir sets conditions of interrogation

JAKARTA—Terror suspect Abu Bakar Bashir is requiring police to meet three demands before he answers their questions, one of his lawyers said Sunday.

"He still wants the police to first meet his demands, otherwise he will not answer their questions," lawyer Ahmad Khalid told AFP.

Bashir, detained at the Jakarta police hospital although doctors have pronounced him healthy, began Saturday to submit to a police interrogation but refrained from answering anything but basic questions until his conditions were met. *AFP*

Thai police receive 10,000 prank calls a day

BANGKOK—Thai police are receiving up to 10,000 prank calls each day and say the culprits are often children as young as eight, according to a report Sunday.

Thailand's emergency response system, already under pressure given ongoing unrest in Thailand's troubled deep south, said its toll-free 191 phone number was being heavily abused leading to a waste of police resources.

"We get hundreds of thousands of prank calls from children in a month," Somdej Thitawattanasakul, deputy chief of the command control communication and information center, told the Bangkok Post.

He said many of the calls were made by young boys from public phones just outside school grounds, but that fully 40 percent of the pranksters were dialing in from private homes, the officer said. *AFP*

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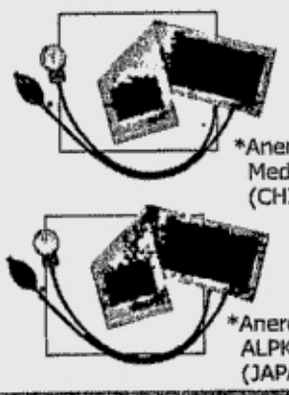

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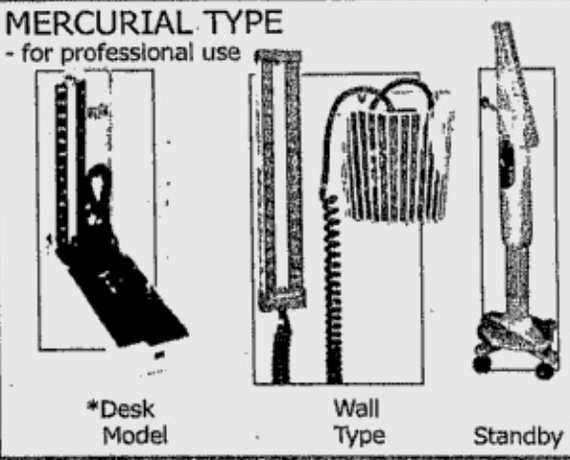

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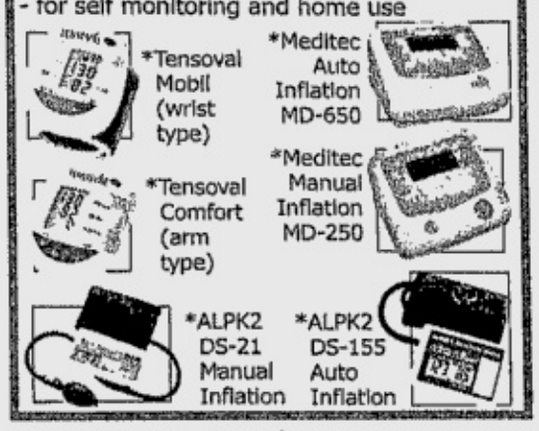

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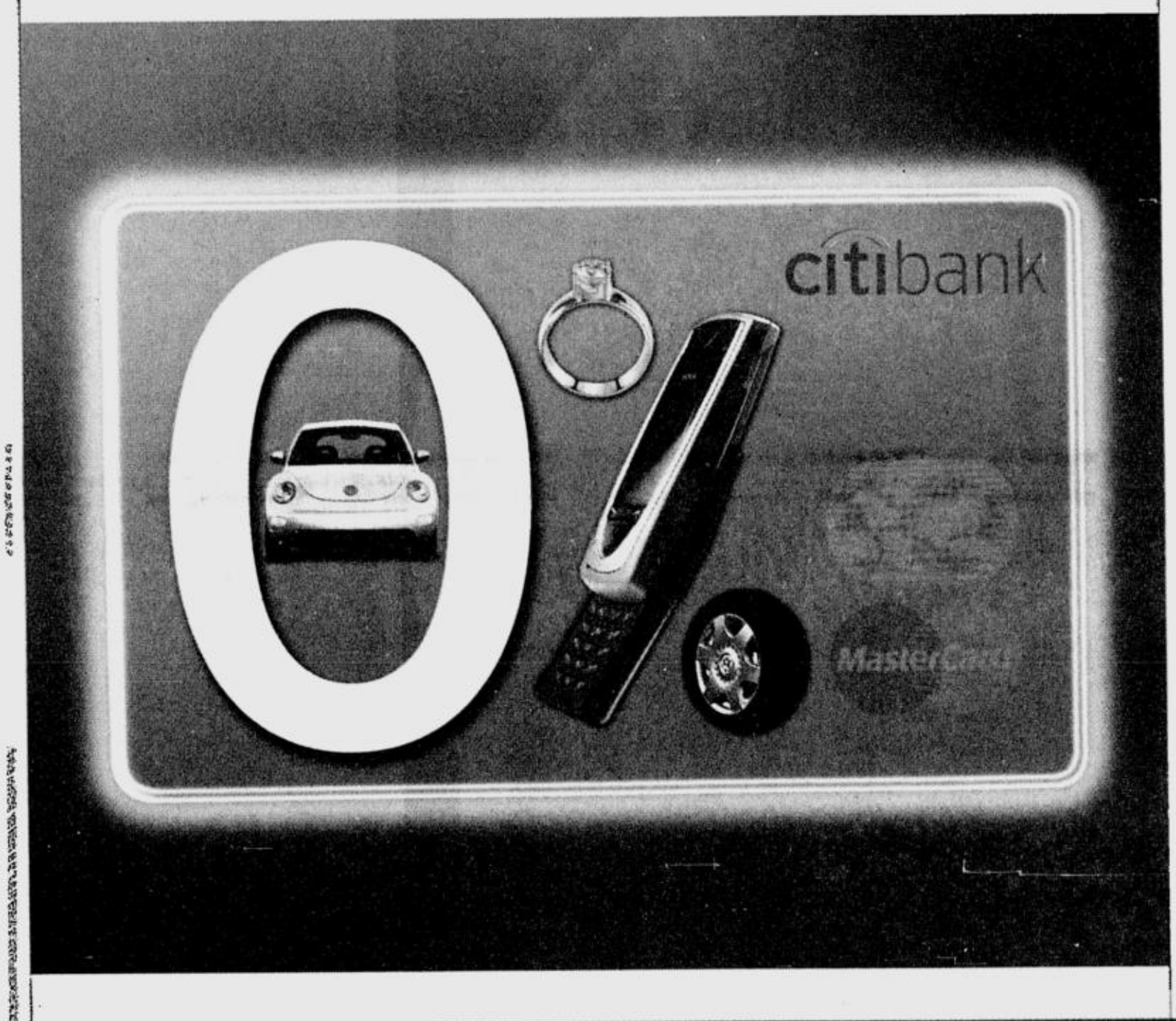

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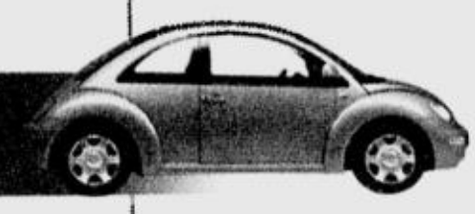

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Wailing of mothers pierce funeral for 26 Italian children

SAN GIULIANO DI PUGLIA, Italy—The wailing of mothers pierced the opening silence of the funeral Sunday for 29 earthquake victims, including the teacher and 26 children who were crushed when this village's school collapsed.

The quake struck Thursday, heavily hitting San Giuliano di Puglia, a town of fewer than 1,200 people in south-central town.

Applause rang out when President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi and his wife, Franca, who was fighting back tears, arrived for the service under a tent at the outskirts of this now-evacuated town. The president of the Chamber of Deputies, Pier Ferdinando Casini, embraced the town's mayor, whose daughter was among the nine first-graders—the entire class—who perished, along with 17 schoolmates.

A moment of silence followed, broken by the wailing. A child tried to push his way through a line of policemen to reach a child's coffin, one of a long row of white coffins.

Photos of smiling children were placed on the coffins surrounded by a thicket of white flowers.

Opening a criminal probe, authorities have questioned why the 49-year-old school was practically the only structure to completely collapse in the 5.4-magnitude temblor.

A quake of such intensity isn't usually strong enough to knock down a building which has been built or reinforced to meet modern earthquake standards.

"I am Luigi's mamma," said Nunziatina Porrazzo, whose 8-year-old son was killed. "I'm the mother of all the angels of San Giuliano di Puglia."

Then to applause at the end of the ceremony she appealed to politicians: "I ask that all schools be made safe. I don't want any mamma or daddy to ever weep for their children" as the parents of this town have, said the woman. *AP*

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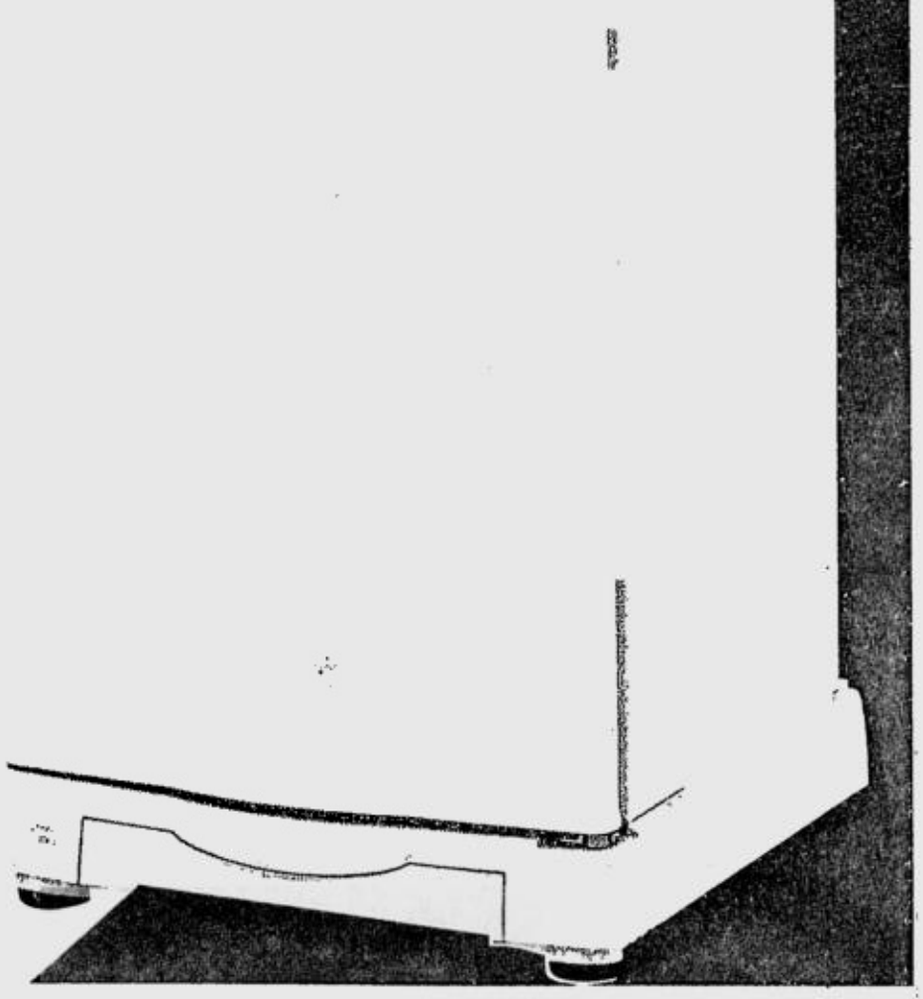

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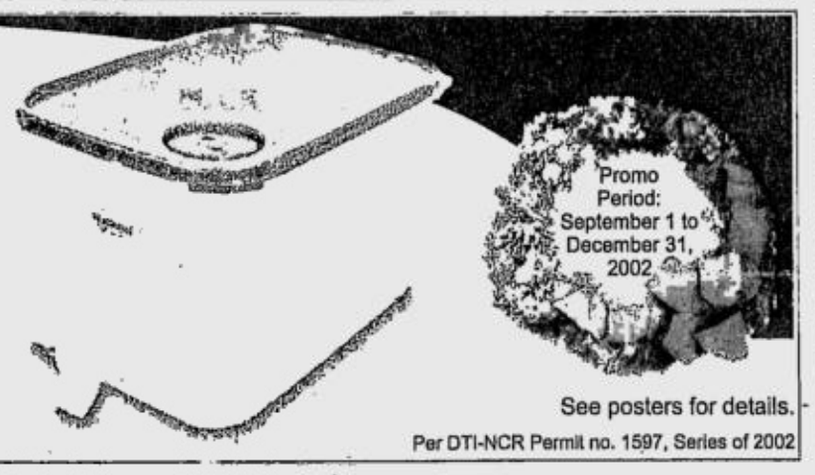

See posters for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 1597, Series of 2002

WORLDBRIEFS

Skeptical

WASHINGTON—US officials expressed skepticism late Saturday over British media reports about recent arrests of close relatives of suspected terror mastermind Osama bin Laden in the Gulf region. The Financial Times of London reported on its website earlier in the day that Iranian security forces had detained at least one of Bin Laden's sons after he crossed the border from Afghanistan and handed him over to either the Saudi or Pakistani authorities. The Sunday Times said Bin Laden's youngest wife has been arrested after a gun battle at her father's compound in Yemen. Two US government officials, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity, said they could not confirm either of the reports, and one expressed skepticism about them. *AFP*

They want war

WASHINGTON—Sixty-eight percent of the US public would approve of US military action to remove Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein from power, compared with 26 percent who disapprove—virtually unchanged from a week earlier, according to a poll released Saturday. But 57 percent support first giving UN weapons inspectors the chance to go back to Iraq to disarm the nation, compared with 36 percent who would prefer to see immediate military action, according to the CBS News/New York Times poll. Nearly twice as many people said Washington needs to wait before taking US-led action in Iraq, as those who said it needs to act now, 61 percent compared with 31 percent. And while 51 percent believe Bush has clearly explained the US case for military strikes against Iraq, 42 percent are not satisfied with explanations so far, the poll found. *AFP*

Saddam order

LONDON—Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has instructed agents to kill Iraqi opposition leaders based in Britain to prevent them from forming an alternative government if he is overthrown, a British Sunday paper reported. British and American intelligence officials have received information in the past week that Saddam has issued a presidential decree authorizing the murder of leading members of the Iraqi opposition "by any means necessary," The Sunday Telegraph said. He is also said to have approached Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi—who is known to have a network of "sleeper" agents in Britain and Europe—to help him to target Iraqi dissidents, the paper said. Details of the decree, which were sent from Saddam's base in Baghdad to Iraqi security officials in Europe and the Middle East last week, were intercepted by British officials at a listening complex in Cheltenham, central England, according to the report. *AFP*

NZ explosion

AUCKLAND—A bus believed to be carrying mainly tourists from Singapore exploded Sunday afternoon in a tunnel near New Zealand's famous Milford Sound in South Island, television reports said. No one was killed in the blast, Television One News reported. A Te Anau police spokesperson said all 32 passengers and the bus driver had been accounted for by emergency services who had been ferried by helicopter to the tunnel after the blast. Details of injuries were not immediately available and firefighters were working to douse the bus, which exploded 200 meters from the eastern end of the Homer Tunnel. *AFP*

Clinton vs Bush

MIAMI—While US President George W. Bush stumped in Florida, the messy battleground of his 2000 electoral victory, to help get his brother reelected governor, his predecessor, Bill Clinton, joined forces with the opposite camp on Saturday. As the president, who has been a regular on Jeb Bush's campaign headed to Tampa, Clinton addressed voters in Miami to support Democrat Bill McBride, a retired lawyer and political novice. After stumping in an African-American neighborhood, where support for the Democratic party is strong, Clinton took the campaign to the trendy south end of Miami Beach, where martini-sipping partygoers cheered the ex-president, the candidate and a band that belted out reggae music. "I don't think I've ever met a private citizen who was more well prepared to do this kind of job," Clinton said of McBride. *AFP*

Breakthrough in talks

NAKHON PATHOM, Thailand—The second round of Sri Lankan peace talks ended Sunday with a series of breakthroughs, including an agreement by Tamil rebel and government negotiators to discuss power sharing after 19 years of civil war. The four-day talks also resulted in major agreements to set up two key committees—one to handle humanitarian and reconstruction needs in war-torn areas of northern and eastern Sri Lanka; the other to ensure the resettlement of people displaced from strategic areas now occupied by government troops. The unexpected achievements have raised hopes of a quick, permanent solution to an ethnic war between rebels of the island's Tamil minority and a government headed by the Sinhalese majority. More than 64,500 people have died and more than 1.6 million have been displaced. *AFP*

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4 NPA rebels slain in clash with Army

CAMP MELCHOR DE LA CRUZ, Isabela—Four suspected New People's Army rebels were killed while at least four soldiers were wounded when government soldiers overran a suspected NPA camp in Baggao, Cagayan on Friday, a report reaching this camp said.

Col. Gabriel Habacon, 501st infantry brigade commander, said the soldiers clashed with about 30 rebels in Barangay Canagatan on Friday. The firefight, Habacon said in a report, lasted for more than an hour.

The NPA camp, which Army soldiers said was used by members of the Henry Abraham Front of the NPA's Cagayan Valley Regional Party Committee, has at least 26 huts that can house about 50 people.

The rebels fled to the Sierra Madre mountain ranges and left anti-government documents and medical supplies in the camp. They took the bodies of the four slain rebels as they fled.

The report said three Army soldiers, who were not identified in the reports, were wounded in the firefight.

Reports said the rebels also fired at a Philippine Air Force helicopter sent to Baggao on Friday to fetch the wounded soldiers. One soldier was wounded in that incident.

The wounded soldiers were taken to the Cagayan Valley Medical Center in Tuguegarao City, 50 km south of Baggao.

The encounter took place two days after Army soldiers and NPA rebels clashed in the same village on Wednesday. During the earlier encounter, four rebels were reportedly killed while a soldier was wounded.

Maj. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Northern Luzon Command, sent two attack helicopters to Cagayan on Saturday to reinforce the government troops pursuing the rebels.

Baggao was one of the hotbeds of insurgency in Cagayan Valley in the 1970s. In the 1980s, the town was the scene of bloody encounters between NPA rebels and government soldiers then led by Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo.

Aguinaldo, who was later elected Cagayan governor and representative of the third congressional district of the province, was slain by suspected NPA assassins in Tuguegarao City in June last year.

In Sorsogon, government troops also overran on Wednesday a rebel camp in Pilar town, where they recovered a rifle grenade, two magazines for M16 rifles with ammunitions and some logistics.

Brig. Gen. Santiago Prejido, commanding general of the 9th Infantry Brigade (Separate) of the Philippine Army, said residents of Barangay Millabas informed them about the presence of a communist camp in their village.

A team of soldiers led by Army 2Lt. Emerson de Vera of the Alpha Company, 2nd Infantry Battalion, conducted combat operations at the village. The camp had 10 *nipa* huts and a multi-purpose hall with foxholes in the perimeter. ***Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau and Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NPA owns slay of mole

ILOILO CITY—New People's Army rebels have claimed responsibility for the killing of an alleged military informer in Sebaste town, Antique on Oct. 11.

Carlos de la Paz, spokesperson of the NPA's Jimmy Marfil Command, said in a statement sent to the media that they meted out the "death sentence" against William Dimafiles of Barangay Bacalan, Sebaste, around 90 kilometers north of Antique's capital town of San Jose.

Dimafiles, 42, was shot dead by at least six NPA rebels at around 6:30 a.m., according to reports reaching the Antique Provincial Police Office.

De la Paz said Dimafiles was "punished for blood debts against the people."

Supt. Rainier Idio, Antique police director, said that Dimafiles was a former member of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit. ***Nestor Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau***

Victims of martial law remembered in Davao's Agdao

DAVAO CITY—Relatives of the victims of the 20-year Marcos regime gathered at the Martial Law Memorial Stone in Agdao District here on Sunday to offer prayers and light candles for their dead.

Jennifer Silvano, a Task Force Detainees of the Philippines staff, said candles were also lighted along R. Castillo Street in Agdao in observance of All Souls' Day.

Agdao is remembered as a killing fields during the martial law days. Suspected communists were either gunned down or dumped there after they were summarily executed.

In 1972 nine parishioners of the Sto. Niño Chapel here were killed when they were ambushed by suspected government troops, who have earlier forced them to vacate the chapel and their houses which were then up for demolition.

Silvano said the TFDP went to the memorial stone together with relatives of martial law victims as they prayed for the peace of the souls despite "the denial of the state to give justice (to the victims of) martial rule."

She said that this early, shades of martial rule are present in the current administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo. She cited the government's plan for a national identification system as example.

Another example of state-sponsored repression, she said, is the proposal to arm barangay tanods and the expansion of civilian intelligence networks.

"These are old tactics used during the martial law years," Silvano said.

Silvano said prayers were also offered to other victims of "state repression" and "state-decided wars" in the country and other parts of the world. ***Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Fake teachers' licenses investigated

TAGBILARAN CITY—If there are teachers who don't deserve to teach, chances are they got their jobs using fake licenses from the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC).

Rep. Eladio Jala of Bohol's third district revealed that at least three teachers in the province who possessed fake PRC licenses.

Jala, House committee chair on civil service, declined to identify these teachers.

"We are still studying the possibility of convincing them to turn state witness (once) the actual cases are filed," he added.

Jala said he had brought the matter to the attention of PRC Chair Antonieta Fortuna-Ibe.

"She confirmed to me that she already received reports about syndicates operating within the PRC," he said.

Ibe could distinguish the fake licenses even without going through the files by looking at them. "(A fake license) bears her signature when she is not supposed to affix it," Jala said.

Ibe told him that the fake licenses, which are sold for a fee of P20,000 to P30,000, are not limited to teachers but also to other professions, he added.

"Holders of fake licenses in Bohol were reportedly approached by fixers from Mindanao," he said.

Those who flunked the regulatory exams were offered to have their papers "rechecked" for "possible correction (of) errors."

According to Jala, Ibe maintained that "rechecking is not allowed as a policy. ***Chito Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau***

DENR forms team to probe project in Sierra Madre

LUCENA CITY—A team of forest investigators was recently formed to inspect the alleged illegal logging activities of the real property developer Green Circle Properties and Resources Inc. (GCPRI), said Armando Rutaquio, chief of the Quezon environment office.

Rutaquio told the INQUIRER that he will soon dispatch the team to the site and coordinate with the complainants against the firm's Pacific Coast City project in the Sierra Madre mountains that covers at least 80,000 hectares of what the Agta tribes consider their ancestral domain.

"If the investigation is able to establish that the company has been really involved in illegal logging activities, the office will recommend that their permit to cut license that was issued to the company be revoked," he said.

Rutaquio said he had already started to conduct the probe on the issue twice last year, but their attempts to penetrate the area were hindered by a band of suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels that would meet his group along the way.

"We were told by the (suspected) NPA that if our concern in going to the area was forest protection, it's better for us to just leave the area because forest protection was also their concern. Fearful for our safety, there was no other option left for us except to heed their advice," Rutaquio said.

The forest investigators will coordinate with the military before embarking on the investigation.

The Integrated Rural Development Foundation for the Philippines, a non-government agency, claimed that the company owned by lawyer Romeo Roxas, has been conducting logging operations since August 2000 without an environmental compliance certificate.

Roxas, during a meeting with provincial board members, argued that logging inside the forestland is legal because the land belongs to him.

This argument was rebuked by Rutaquio.

"No one has been given the exclusive right to do what he pleases inside the forest. All the natural resources belong to the state. Logging inside one's private property is still subject to government regulation," he explained. ***Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

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'Cold war' threatening MILF-GRP peace talks

KABALU

DAVAO CITY—A "new cold war" is threatening the peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

MILF peace negotiating panel member Jun Muntawil said the "cold war" is being waged by some groups who want to ruin the peace process.

Muntawil cited accusations that tend to connect the MILF with suspected terrorists or the MILF coddling criminals like those tagged in bombing incidents in Metro Manila, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

"Under the interim peace agreement, any pronouncement that may tend to undermine the credibility of the other side is a provocative statement and may ruin the agreement on the cessation of hostilities," he said.

Muntawil together with other MILF ground commanders and members of the government negotiating panel were in town for a meeting with the government coordinating committee to review the agreement on cessation of hostilities following the recent clashes in Lanao.

Muntawil said the MILF will not make any move that would ruin the peace negotiations.

"I reiterate the MILF's commitment (to adhere) especially to the signed agreement," he said.

He called on the MILF and the government to refrain from making pronouncements that would undermine the credibility of the other side.

Presidential Assistant for Mindanao and government chief negotiator Jesus Dureza said there was a need to strengthen the coordination between the government and the MILF to preempt confrontation between their respective armed groups.

The ceasefire is under review to find out where the ceasefire committee had failed or succeeded.

Dureza said they can not work well when there is fighting on the ground.

Troop deployment

On Tuesday, MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu cautioned the government against the massive deployment of troops near the Liguasan Marsh, a suspected MILF lair.

"If such move continues, this might trigger another war in Maguindanao," said Kabalu, who considers the massing up of government troops in Datu Paglas, Buluan, Sultan sa Barongis and some parts of Pagalungan and Pagagawan in Maguindanao and Pikit town in Cotabato as a "provocative move" amid the government's peace negotiations with the MILF.

"I see no reason for the government to deploy battalion of soldiers in these areas, unless it has a hidden agenda" for a renewed fighting with the MILF which has not withdrawn from the state-initiated peace talk," Kabalu said.

Intense fighting between government and MILF forces ensued in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur after former President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war with the rebel group in 2000. More than 40 rebel camps were overran by the soldiers, including Camps Abubakar and Bushra in Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur, respectively.

With the capture of the camps, most of the MILF survivors along with their leader Salamat Hashim reportedly moved to the Liguasan Marsh, making it their new found home, a military intelligence officer said.

The presence of these soldiers in the marsh, Kabalu said, was an apparent tactical move "to pressure inhabitants in the area" so they can engage the rebels in a fresh gunbattle.

Maj. Julieto Ando of the 6th Infantry Division, however, denied having augmented their troops in Maguindanao.

"If you happen to see patrolling soldiers in villages, they are doing the routine work of securing residents from lawless elements," Ando said.

Ando has called on the MILF hierarchy to be sincere in their pronouncements that it would help the government arrest criminals or wanted persons seeking refuge in rebel camps. *Ayan Mellejor and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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ROUNDUP

Donation for eagle

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine Eagle Foundation (PEF) received another donation from the American Express last month. The $10,000 donation was intended for the conservation education project of the foundation. The American Express, which started its commitment to the project in 1992, adopted "Pagasa," the first Philippine Eagle hatched through special breeding. The PEF has been trying to breed eagles in captivity to increase the bird's population. *Joselle Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

1 dead in bus collision

CEBU CITY—One person was killed and about 50 others were hurt when two passenger buses collided on Monday last week at Barangay Pitalo, San Fernando, about 29 kilometers south of this city. SPO3 Francisco Salubre of San Fernando Police Station identified the fatality as Juanito Camahalan, driver of Natalie Bus Liner. Florentino Pesanon, driver of Ceres Bus Liner was in critical condition at the government-owned Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center in Cebu City. The Natalie bus was bound for southern Cebu while the Ceres bus was on its way to Cebu City from Ginatilan town. *Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Osmeña relative nabbed

CEBU CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation arrested on Saturday three suspected drug dealers, including a distant relative of Cebu City Vice Mayor Renato Osmeña. Dave Osmeña, 33, a salesman, was apprehended together with Jimmy Chiu, 51 and Israel del Mar, 31, during a buy-bust operation on Sikatuna St. here. Romulo Manapsal, NBI director for Central Visayas, said his agents allegedly seized 71 grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu), an electronic weighing scale and P100,000 in buy-bust money. *Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Wife of American slain

BACOLOD CITY—Police are investigating the murder of the wife of a US serviceman, who was found dead on Sunday at the grassy area in Purok Progreso, Barangay Alijis here. The body of Gina Pepino-Haddock, 30, bore two stab wounds and hand injuries. Police recovered from the crime scene a leather scabbard, a Nokia cellular phone, a wallet containing P700 and assorted jewelry. Haddock was married to John Haddock, a US serviceman based in Hawaii. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Suspected NPA killed

CAMP NAKAR, Lucena City—Two suspected New People's Army rebels were killed by an Army soldier in Sitio Dapdap, Barangay Tagum, Sta. Cruz, Marinduque at about 4 p.m., Saturday. In a report to Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, Southern Luzon Unified Command chief, 74th Infantry Battalion commander Lt. Col. Danilo Cruz, identified the slain suspected rebels as Michael de la Cruz alias Ka Allo and Israel Rodelas from whom authorities recovered cash amounting to P38,500, a bolo and a knife. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Execs face charges

NAIC, Cavite—A group of women here has filed graft and corruption charges against Mayor Efren Nazareno, Vice Mayor Rodolfo Nazareno and eight other Sangguniang Bayan members for allegedly diverting the P2-million calamity fund intended for the victims of a recent typhoon here to campaign funds and their trip abroad. The Woman's Group for Good Government, a non-government organization, recently filed their formal complaints before the Office of the Ombudsman. But Nazareno was unfazed by the complaints and said he was ready to face his accusers. *Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cop shot dead

BAGUIO CITY—A policeman here was gunned down by three armed men in his house in Barangay Irisan on Wednesday afternoon. Police said PO1 Roger Esteras, a member of the Cordillera police's regional mobile group (RMG), succumbed to bullet wounds in the head. Reports said the suspects, who were wearing brown RMG uniforms and carrying M-16 Armalite rifles, barged into Esteras' house at 12:45 p.m. Wednesday. Esteras' neighbors said the suspects boarded a passenger jeepney bound for downtown Baguio after the incident. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Alicaway, 86

FAUSTA Genebraldo Alicaway passed away on Saturday, Nov. 2. She was 86. Alicaway is survived by children Sol, Pepe, Lydia, Mercy, Pedro, Junny, Cordeo and Joed; sister, Petra Generalao; and loving grandchildren, great-grandchild, nieces, nephews and cousins. Her body lies at the family residence in Poblacion, San Fernando, Cebu. Interment will be on Wednesday, Nov. 6, after the 2 p.m. funeral Mass and blessings at St. Isidore Church, San Fernando, Cebu.

ABRA MAYOR'S MURDER

Internet, cell phones used to air disgust over violence

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Residents of Abra have turned to their mobile phones and the Internet to discuss the murder of Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren.

A group calling itself the Alliance of Brave, Reformed and Armed Brothers (Abra Brothers) started a text messaging barrage implicating Abra politicians in the murder.

Messages sent to a popular website catering to Abrenians in the country and abroad (www.abrenian.com) also agreed that local politicians were behind the killing.

The Abrenian website posted all stories on Benwaren's murder since Wednesday.

The resulting forum on the killings already had 300 hits since Saturday afternoon.

Most messages called for an end to "this cycle of violence."

"This is really sad for our province. I feel that we are not moving forward. Reason is still muffled by the ear-splitting roar of violence," an Abrenian, who identified himself as Sabas, posted at the website on Oct. 29, the day Benwaren was felled by an assassin's bullet in a church in Calauan, Laguna.

"When can we learn? When can we stop using bullets to prove our respective points of view? When can we learn to sit down and reason out with those who oppose our points of view? How long would it take for all of us to understand that violence can never solve our differences? Four years? Forty years? Four hundred years? Forever?" Sabas said.

A Manila-based Abrenian, using the name Albert, said, "based on my experience in Abra, the problem is that people don't trust each other."

"I can say, almost every household has guns. What (is) the purpose of guns anyway? We elected the same politicians that we all know have questionable characters in the first place . . . As long as we allow these current leaders to block our development, Abra will remain backwards," he said.

Of the 22 messages in that thread, five named a top Abra politician as having a hand in the murder.

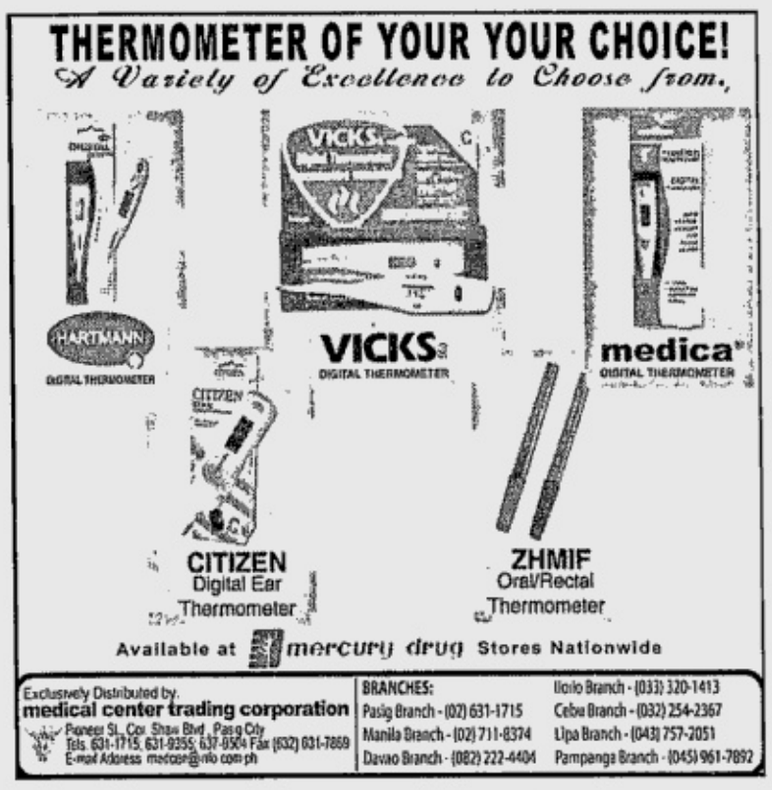
> Most messages called for an end to "this cycle of violence."

"I myself (am) very angry. *Ania metten nga pangarikrikna ken panagpuspuso ti taom? Uray ngat met no kasaano ti guramon, saan mo nga papatayen ta aglalo ket adda met familia na* (Do you still have any emotion or compassion in your heart? Even if your hate is overpowering, you do not kill a person especially that he has a family)," an anonymous sender said.

The members of the e-group, however, believe that only a few residents of the province are aware of the discussions in the Internet.

"Benwaren's assassination is the catalyst. We should continue to keep the flame of outrage about the dictators alive," he said.

Members of the Abra Brothers have also sent text messages to reporters here on who they think was behind the killing.



Thais join RP-led antiterror group

From page A1

council, Bunnag said. Officials hope other Asean members will join later.

The Asean summit is expected to be dominated by terrorism concerns, and President Macapagal-Arroyo used the occasion to call on North Korea to stop its nuclear weapons development program.

Hewing closely to the US line on the so-called "axis of evil" state, President Macapagal said unless North Korea is deterred from developing nuclear weapons, the country "can do tremendous harm to the region with the weapons and arsenal it has at its disposal."

North Korea, like Iraq, has been condemned by US President George W. Bush as a rogue state or sponsor of terrorism.

The President had strongly supported the US position on Iraq, which seeks the dismantling of Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction.

"The objective is to peacefully disarm a nation that . . . needs to reform itself and open up to the world," she said in a radio address.

She made her remarks before leaving for Phnom Penh. Accompanied by a small group of Cabinet members, the President took a chartered flight for the two-day summit. She made no statement as she boarded the plane.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said she would engage in "frank, open and candid discussions on the issue of the Korea peninsula and the issue of the South China Sea," as well as the international campaign against terrorism and transnational crime.

Tightest security

As part of the antiterror effort, Bunye said Ms Macapagal would likely seek improved intelligence sharing and tighter controls on exit and entry points at the common borders of Asean countries.

In Phnom Penh, Asean leaders gathering under the tightest security ever for their annual summit, said they would agree on new measures to fight terrorism, possibly including the use of joint military force, host Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said yesterday.

Determined to send a clear message that the region is safe for foreign tourists and investors, the leaders will discuss expanded cooperation in countering terrorism, including more information sharing and possible military assistance, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said.

"It is possible that one country could help another country suppress terrorism by force if asked to help by that country," Thaksin said. "But I think the details of such a joint armed operation would need to be worked out between the two nations when that occurs."

Hun Sen said a regional statement on terrorism would be approved by the leaders at an informal dinner on Sunday night. He did not provide further details.

The meetings are being billed as the largest international gathering in modern Cambodian history and officials here hope they will symbolize its return to respected status in the world community after nearly three decades of war, Khmer Rouge revolution and civil conflict.

Potholed streets have been repaved and swept, and many of the city's colonial-era government buildings have received a fresh coat of paint.

The state of Cambodia's ill-equipped and under-trained law enforcement agencies have raised concerns about security for the approximately 1,000 delegates gathering in Phnom Penh.

But Hun Sen has pledged complete safety during the meetings, which will also be attended by leaders from China, Japan, South Korea, India and South Africa.

Security was extremely tight near the meeting site with streets barricaded and police checking inside wallets and under shoes.

Maj. Gen. Khieu Sopheak, spokesperson for the interior ministry, said 5,000 police and military had been deployed, including 1,000 in plain clothes.

There are "no problems at all with security," he said.

No apologies

In her radio message, Ms Macapagal said she would make no apologies for welcoming US military assistance in the country's fight against terrorism.

"We must work together as nations around the world to fight terrorism," the President said. "We can't sit back and wait. We must take this fight to the terrorists before they undermine our way of living," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she had been the first leader in Asia to support the international coalition against terrorism.

She dismissed criticism from leftist groups, and even from Vice President Teofisto Guingona, for allowing antiterrorism training exercises by US and Philippine troops in the southern Philippines, where a spate of bomb attacks have occurred in the past month.

"Here at home, I have welcomed US military assistance to help us in the fight against terrorism," she said. "A few of my opponents have criticized my decision, but I have to tell you I make no apologies for aggressively seeking to root out terrorism in the Philippines and putting considerable effort into seeking regional consensus on fighting terrorism."

At the summit, the President is expected to take up the recently forged landmark agreement for the peaceful resolution of conflicting claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

The President's Cambodia trip will be followed by a brief state visit to Vietnam before returning home on Nov. 7.

Asean groups the Philippines with Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Burma, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. *Reports from AP, AFP*

PRESIDENT Macapagal arrives at the Pochentong International Airport in Phnom Penh to attend the 8th Asean Summit. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

Asian tourism reels from West travel advisories

From page A1

na, Japan, South Korea, India and South Africa.

The Asean nations plan to sign a new deal promoting tourism—for example, by easing visa requirements and boosting air services—on Monday.

A survey by the International Air Transport Association in October showed that 42 percent of business travelers in Europe, North America and the Asia-Pacific were cautious but would still travel afound the region if necessary.

The figure was almost double the 22 percent recorded in June, highlighting the fears prompted by the attack on Bali.

Snowball effect

Many are worried about how much business they will lose and how long it will take to bounce back.

"We have huge losses every day," grumbled Roberto S. Jotikasthira, first vice president of the Association of Thai Travel Agents. Dozens of European tour groups have been canceling visits, including some big ones like planned tours by 400 people from Italy and 1,200 from Portugal, he said.

"It's a big snowball effect," said John Koldowski, Pata managing director of strategic intelligence. He said it was "unfair to brand a whole country or a whole region" with travel advisories that could needlessly frighten tourists.

"Pick any country in the world and I'm sure I can find you a dark alley that will get you into trouble," Koldowski said.

Although Pata is holding its annual meeting next year in Bali, which it hopes will lend the resort island some support, it had to cancel a sustainable tourism conference in Western Java, Indonesia, just days after the Bali bombings.

"We were all set to proceed with that, but a lot of our speakers, from the United States, the United Kingdom and Australia were advised not to go," Koldowski said.

The US travel advisory, similar to warnings issued by nations in Europe as well as Japan and Australia, noted "the potential for terrorist actions against US citizens abroad, specifically in the Southeast Asia region."

Many in the industry are furiously noting that no such sweeping blanket warnings get put out when terrorists have struck elsewhere—for example, when the Irish Republican Army bombed targets in Britain and Ireland.

"It's a bloody joke," said Luzi A. Matzig, whose Asian Trails travel agency in Bangkok promotes visits to remote areas of Southeast Asia. "You have no travel advisories for Spain, where Basque terrorists stage attacks, but you have them for Laos, Burma and Thailand, which are among the safest places in the world for tourists."

What's next?

"Perception is the key," Koldowski said, adding:

"The real telling time will be in the next month or two when everyone's waiting for what's next—will there be a spate of attacks in the region, or will there be a war in Iraq, or will there be something else? Everyone's bracing themselves for the next big thing, whenever it may come."

But industry experts predict that travel will recover, and Cambodia, the host of the Asean summit, is proof that it can happen.

Cambodia is still recovering from years of war and genocide, and cleaning up all its notorious minefields will take decades. But it has been enjoying increases in tourism of 25 percent each of the last three years, according to Thong Khon, its deputy minister of tourism, who expects the trend to continue.

The Bali crisis and other Asian troubles, such as tensions between nuclear-armed neighbors India and Kashmir, might even prompt travelers to come to Cambodia instead, he said.

"We don't want to see our friends suffer destruction so we can benefit, no," Thong Khon said. "But because of the security in Bali, some travelers might turn to places with adequate security like Cambodia."

Reports from AP, AFP

Lucio Tan Day marked in Guam

From page A1

In recognition of his economic and charitable contributions to the island, Tan was appointed ambassador-at-large, an honorary office whose sole job is to extol the island's virtues.

He was also bestowed the Ancient Order of the Chamorri, which, Gutierrez said, thus "made him part of the 200,000 Chamorros worldwide."

At the dinner party at the Governor's House, Gutierrez cited Tan for his humanitarian efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Chata'an in July. Gutierrez said PAL had shipped to Guam, at no cost, 60 power generators worth $40,000 from PriceSmart's Philippine branch—thus literally saving the lives of thousands of Guam residents.

Present during the reception were Tan's colleagues in the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, led by its president John Ng. Former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor and PAL chair emeritus Gabriel Singson was also there.

In a prepared speech, Tan said he felt sentimental about the recognition given to him by the Guam government because it brought back memories of his first visit 20 years ago to "a small island that is a beautiful place to live in."

"Since then, our company has continued investing in Guam and it has never withdrawn any resources out of Guam," Tan said. "Our company is a good corporate citizen. Everywhere we set up a business, our goal is to help people, create employment, and, of course, to make money."

Tan has investments in banking, food (he operates a bakery monopoly on the island), and real estate—Tan's Micronesia Mall is Guam's biggest. A source said Tan was also seriously considering the acquisition of the island's state-owned telecommunications provider, which is up for privatization.

Although Tan refused to put a number on his total investments in Guam, Gutierrez said the taipan's businesses contribute directly and indirectly some $500 million to Guam's tourism-based economy—about a sixth of its $3-billion gross domestic product.

Gutierrez also wants Tan to invest in a second newspaper in Guam.

EU planning to tag RP as terror haven

From page A1

adopted, the EU decision will subject nationals of the blacklisted countries to rigorous and lengthy screening before they are issued visas to enter Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

The tightening of EU gateways to Filipinos and Indonesians will be a setback to European efforts to reach out to Asia, in particular the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and to promote closer economic and cultural relations.

This reaching-out process has gained ground with the dialogue between the European Union and Asean, as promoted by such organizations as the Asem (Asia-Europe Meeting) and the Singapore-based Asef (Asia Europe Foundation).

The possible blacklisting of the Philippines, and the contemplated travel restrictions on its nationals, come in the wake of the Macapagal administration's offensive to link up with the US-led global war on terror, and as the European Union prepares to expand to 25 members with the entry of 10 candidates from Central and Eastern Europe by 2004.

This is the negative aspect of the policy of aligning with the US antiterror campaign, now expanded to include groups with no connection to al-Qaida, which Washington has identified as responsible for the attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

In particular, the successful lobby led by Foreign Secretary Blas Ople in Europe to blacklist Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army as "terrorists" may have contributed to paint a picture of the Philippines as a haven for various terrorist threats.

Following US lead

The blacklisting of Sison and the NPA followed the US labeling in August of the NPA and the Communist Party of the Philippines as terrorist organizations. It would appear the European Union was just following the US lead.

Ople and the Macapagal administration have hoped that the blacklisting of Sison and the NPA would bring the National Democratic Front to its knees. They have hoped as well to force the NDF to resume peace negotiations by convincing the Dutch government to withdraw asylum from Sison and squeeze the financing of the rebel organizations by European donors.

The negotiations have been suspended for more than a year, with the Macapagal administration adopting a tough policy on the insurgents while paying lip service to the search for a political settlement of the longest communist insurgency in Asia.

Ople's European lobby may have been a successful diplomatic maneuver, but it is a shallow victory. The blacklisting of Sison and the NPA has further dimmed the flickering prospects of resuming the peace talks, and even members of the Philippine peace panel have expressed doubts that the EU declaration would force the NDF back to the negotiating table.

Ople's forlorn hope that the EU declaration would force the communists to sue for peace has been dashed by Sison's instant belligerent reaction: that the blacklisting was intended to push them to negotiations leading to their capitulation without addressing the social causes of the insurgency.

The blacklisting of Filipino communists internationalizes the insurgency that has been a purely domestic rebellion for more than 50 years.

The European Union blindly follows Washington's lead in expanding the definition of terrorists to include those who are not involved in any way in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Contradiction

The paradox of the Macapagal administration is that its support of the US enlargement of the terrorist list contradicts the President's own declaration at the Apec summit in Mexico: that the war on terror cannot be won by military action alone.

The social and economic causes of terrorism must be addressed, she said in front of US President George W. Bush in Mexico, to the applause of her Apec colleagues who were appalled by Bush's attempt to lobby for support for war on Iraq and make it the main concern of the summit.

Indeed, Vice President Teofisto Guingona, Ople's predecessor as foreign secretary, aptly pointed out last Friday that the EU blacklisting was inappropriate and uncalled for because it did not differentiate between the actions staged by social rebels with ideological motivations and those staged by terrorist networks.

One Apec delegate was quoted by the International Herald Tribune as saying that all they were hearing from the United States was "terrorism, terrorism and terrorism," and nothing about the economic problems for which the Apec was established.

The President's statements in Mexico underline the inconsistency between her policy of alignment with Bush's global strategy and her own rhetoric.

In pursuing the omnibus terrorist-tagging campaign of the United States, her administration has succeeded in depicting the Philippines as a hotbed of terrorists before the world and, in particular, before the Europeans, who took our self-smear seriously.

It does not come as a surprise, therefore, that the European Union is now acting with exaggerated fear that Filipino terrorists would enter Schengen frontiers and attack Europeans.

The fact, however, is that some Schengen states are already harboring suspected terrorists, who are being shadowed by their police and security forces. The danger of terrorist attacks lies inside the European Union, and not from the Philippines and Indonesia.

In recent weeks, these two countries have been victims of bombings, in Bali and in Zamboanga City. Our own terrorists are busy mauling us and have no time to export their suicidal trade to the Europeans.

China Reds dance to capitalist tune

From page A1

Britain's New Labor party and scourge of its old Left, was lecturing the Communist Party of China's brightest and best. And students at its top think tank and training school were hanging on his every word.

"I told them—you are obviously going on your own prawn cocktail offensive," Mandelson confided to a reporter later. Baffled cadres apparently reached for their dictionaries at his reference to New Labor's efforts to woo big business on the dinner party circuit, but they got the message.

After more than two decades of capitalistic economic reforms, the Chinese ruling party needs a new image—and a new ideology.

"The Communist Party of China is the vanguard of the Chinese working class," begins its constitution. "Its ultimate goal is to realize the communist social system." Not any more.

When the party holds its 16th congress starting Nov. 8, delegates are expected to rewrite the constitution to allow private entrepreneurs to join officially for the first time. The five-yearly congress is also expected to even appoint a handful of tycoons to the Central Committee, the 200 most powerful people in China.

President Jiang Zemin, due to retire as party boss at the congress, has championed the plan with an eye on a slot in China's political Valhalla, alongside his predecessors, Deng Xiaoping and Mao Zedong.

By making it official doctrine, Jiang hopes to maintain political power and go down in history as the man who preserved party rule by making it more relevant in an increasingly complex—and capitalist—society.

One day, analysts say, the party might even change its name.

Only in name

For truth be told, China is communist only in name. It has stock markets, Starbucks, a crumbling welfare system and a private sector that accounts for 50-70 percent of GDP.

China now has the highest number of the world's 40 wealthiest people under the age of 40 outside the United States, according to Fortune magazine.

Yet it is still run by a communist party that spouts Marxist rhetoric and officially excludes private entrepreneurs as "capitalist exploiters"—although many party members have quietly drifted into business.

For the last two decades, China has fudged the issue with Deng's euphemism "socialism with Chinese characteristics." But about five years ago, party chieftains decided they needed another idea.

The brains at the party school—headed by Jiang's heir apparent Hu Jintao—began studying how socialist parties in Eastern Europe failed to move with the times while those in Germany and Britain did. Hence the invitation to Mandelson.

What they came up with was a blueprint for limited political reform within the party—the awkwardly named "Three Represents." It says the party represents advanced productive forces, advanced culture and the interests of the majority of the people.

For advanced productive forces, read capitalists. Advanced culture means academics and others in the elite previously viewed as tainted by Western thinking. The third bit implies expanding the support base beyond workers, peasants and intellectuals.

The wording is intentionally vague to give leaders leeway on the scope and speed of party reform, analysts say.

Jiang kept it that way when he announced the theory in 2000. But he went a step further when he proposed admitting private entrepreneurs on July 1 last year, the 80th anniversary of the founding of the party.

Memories of Mao

Since then, top leaders have all publicly backed the plan and state media have run a massive publicity campaign to win over the population in every corner of the nation, from Tibet to Shanghai.

But for many ordinary Chinese—already subjected to Mao's "Three Antis" and Deng's "Four Modernizations"—the "Three Represents" is just another meaningless mantra.

Soldiers have fought floods with it. Bank of China credited it in its earnings report. One farmer in Xinjiang told a recent visitor it made his cucumbers longer and fatter.

China has not seen a media campaign like this since the Mao personality cult of the 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution. And it has rubbed some prominent party members the wrong way.

First, veteran leftist and former propaganda chief Deng Liqun accused Jiang of forsaking Marxism and mimicking Mao. "Someone will remove the hammer and sickle from the party flag and replace it with a computer and a satellite," he wrote in a letter circulated widely on the Internet last year.

His small band of believers were silenced when two leftist magazines were suspended, but they were not the only critics. Political reformists disliked the plan because it promoted party rule rather than multi-party democracy. Neo-authoritarians on the "new left" saw it as a coalition of the political and economic elite that would only lead to more corruption. *Reuters*

CAMEL
GAS STOVE

May
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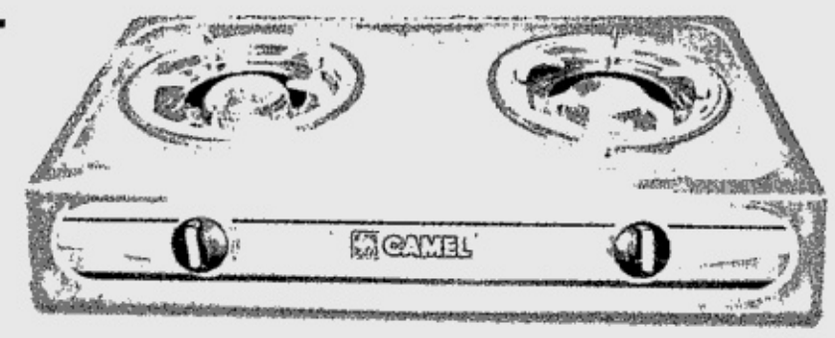

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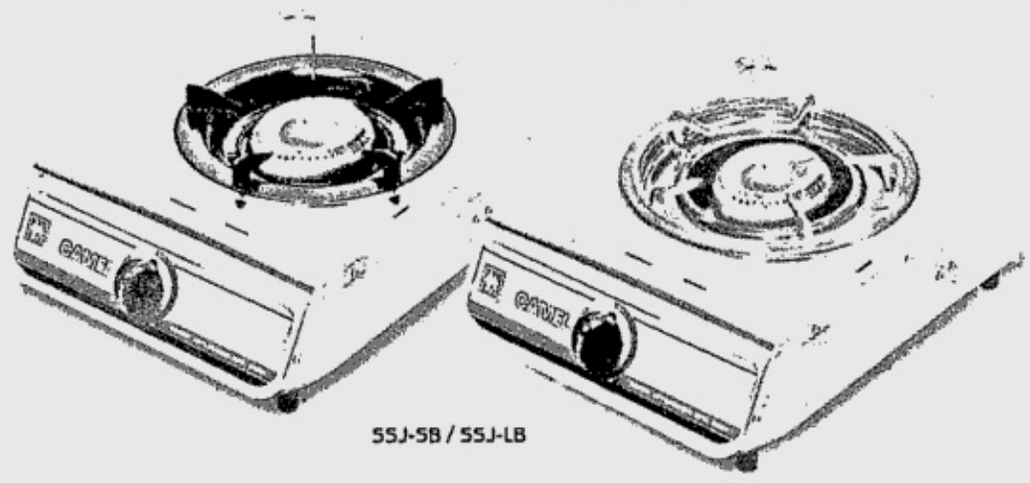

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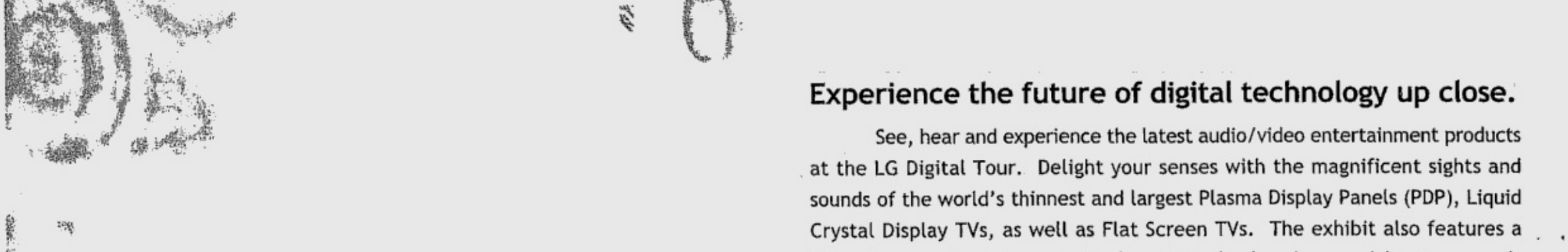
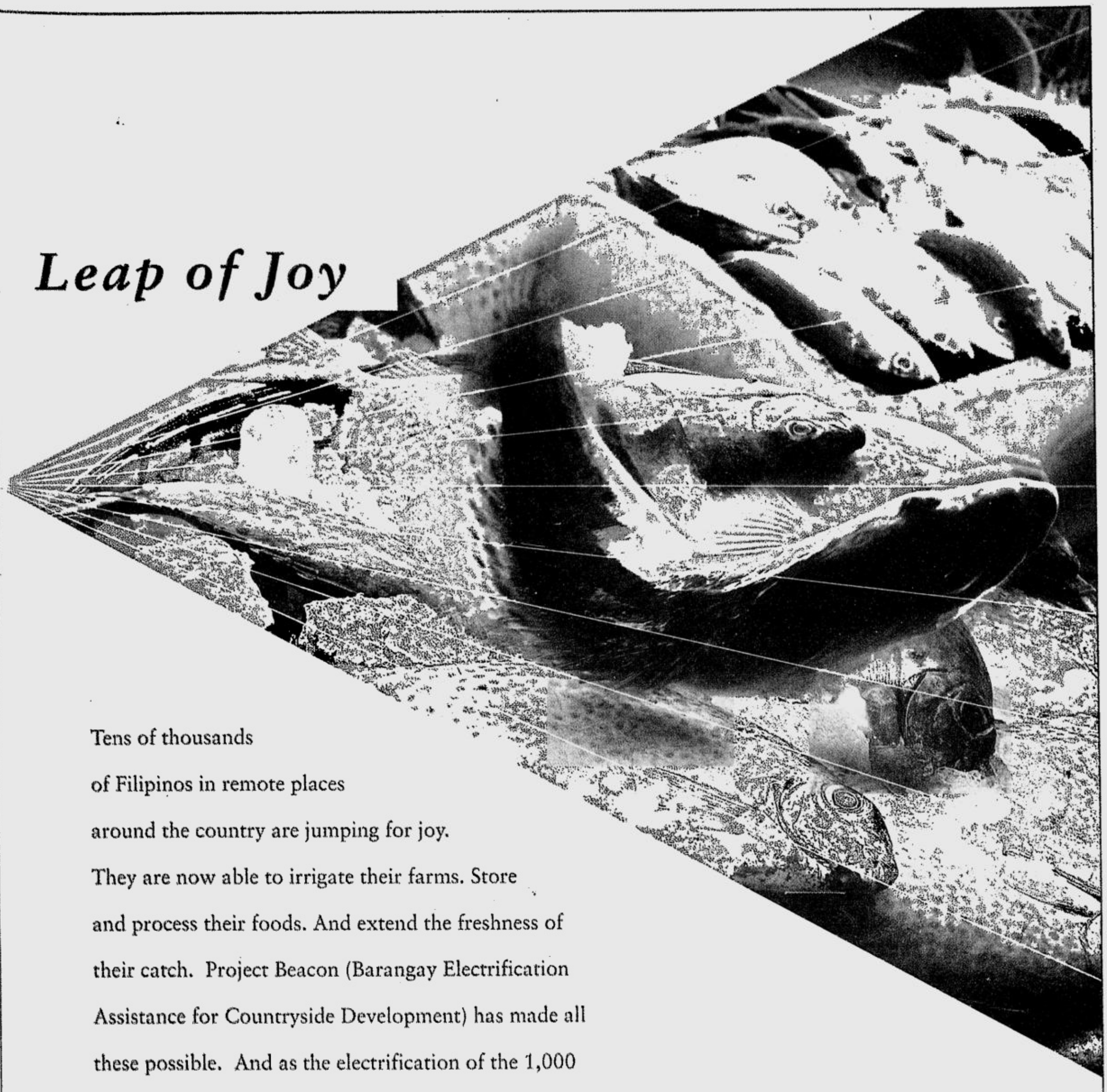


Leap of Joy



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PGH: Buy a stuffed toy and give a life

From page A1

The toys do not always mean life and hope to the young patients of Wards 9 and 11. Last Christmas, they symbolized the contrary: the sad probability of death.

Cruz recalled the generosity of a foreign businessman, whose kindness inspired the PGH's "Give a Life" project.

He said the donor, who wished to remain anonymous, celebrated his birthday at the pediatrics wards last year. After seeing the plight of the children whose families were too poor to buy medicines, he started giving regular donations.

As he visited the wards each week, the entrepreneur got close to many of the patients, some of whom had incurable illnesses like leukemia. To cheer up the terminally ill, he gave them stuffed toys.

Cruz said it was the entrepreneur's work that inspired the "Give a Life" team to reinvent the meaning of stuffed toys for the children of Wards 9 and 11. This time, he said, the dolls would mean life and hope..

Scouting for space

The PGH acquired 7,000 stuffed toys—dogs, bears, rabbits and mice—from the foreign donor, who imported them from China. These will be sold in malls at uniform prices.

The "Give a Life" team will start setting up stalls in the malls next week, although Cruz said it was still scouting for space that can be provided to the PGH for free or at little cost.

Income from the sale will be used to buy badly needed equipment like ventilators, syringes and infusion pumps, biopsy needles, antibiotics and other items in the PGH pediatrics ward's "wish list."

The "Give a Life" project was launched in August to facilitate donations to the PGH pediatric wards, which account for an alarming 40-percent mortality rate, or an average of one death a day, due to lack of medicines and equipment.

Cruz said the wards, through donations from individuals and corporations, had since procured some equipment, and the mortality rate had dropped to around 20 percent.

But many items in the the wish list have yet to be bought.

"I can never get used to the sight of a child dying," Cruz said.

"These are poor people. Anything you can give them—toys, medicines and food—will be very much appreciated," he said.

The stuffed toys, he said, would be enough to elicit a smile from tired and otherwise hopeless kids battling poverty and disease.

(For inquiries, donors may call the "Give a Life" hotline at 899-1000.)

Assunta-Jules civil wedding on Dec. 15

From page A1

ing of Dec. 15 and that five mayors from this province would officiate at the wedding. The couple will then travel around the world for three months for their honeymoon.

It was the first time the couple announced their wedding date, which, they said, they had decided only on Saturday.

According to the couple, the wedding will be simple, but it will be a prelude to a grand wedding in January 2004.

"I will wear a simple dress for the occasion (civil wedding)," De Rossi told the INQUIRER in the den of the Executive House of the Ledesma Group of Companies in San Carlos, about 144 km southeast of the capital of Bacolod City.

"We chose to get married here at the Executive House in San Carlos because we wanted it to be in the place where I was elected into office," added Ledesma, who chairs the powerful ways and means committee at the House of Representatives.

The wedding will be officiated by the mayors of San Carlos and the towns of Calatrava, Toboso, Escalante and Don Salvador, all of which belong to the first district that Ledesma represents in Congress.

The couple was here on vacation with Ledesma's children—Julio Carlos, 5, and Cristina Julieta, 10—and members of De Rossi's TV gag show, "Bubble Gang."

Rumors said the couple would marry this week. But Ledesma said they had to set the wedding in December because they were not able to obtain the papers that De Rossi needed from the Italian Embassy in Manila before they came here for the weekend holidays.

The Italian Embassy has to issue a certificate of eligibility before De Rossi, whose father is an Italian, could wed. Last month, she signed wedding banns before the Italian Embassy in Manila.

A banns is a notice of a proposed marriage, proclaimed in a place designated by law in order that any person may object if he or she knows of any obstacle to the wedding.

Mother, sis attending

De Rossi said she hoped her mother Nenita, 46, and sister Alessandra, 18, will attend her wedding.

The actress had been at odds with her mother and sister for months because of her relationship with the congressman. She left the De Rossi home after she and Ledesma started their relationship.

But De Rossi said she had been reaching out to her sister and mother, and that Ledesma had been encouraging her.

De Rossi surprised her younger sister when she brought her flowers during the premiere of Alessandra's movie "Mga Munting Tinig" in Manila in mid-October. She recently visited her mother, De Rossi said.

She said she would also invite her father Luigi, 46, and sisters Margherita, 13, and Isabel, 10, who all live in Italy, to her wedding.

Ledesma said that unlike De Rossi's mother and sister, his family and even the family of his late wife, Marivic Pek, who died of cancer two years ago, had accepted and liked his girlfriend very much.

His mother, Connie Arenas Ledesma, invites De Rossi to go shopping, sends her things and even takes her side in disagreements with him, he said.

"She has also been accepted by the matriarch of our family, Amparo Gustilo," he said.

The Ledesmas are an old rich Negrense clan that is into shipping, real estate and sugar.

'Tita Sam'

As for his children, words were not needed to show their affection for De Rossi. Cristina Julieta sat beside De Rossi during the interview. During the pictorial, the two Ledesma children ran to De Rossi's side and held on to her.

They call her "Tita Sam." When De Rossi and their father hug each other and kiss, they, too, jumped in to be hugged.

"I want to be in the middle," Cristina Julieta shouted.

"I love children," said De Rossi. "I got along with Jules' kids right away." She would love to have her own babies, too, she added.

Last Sept. 13, armed men kidnapped the two Ledesma children on their way to school in San Juan, Metro Manila. The children were released four days later near the Makati Medical Center in Makati City.

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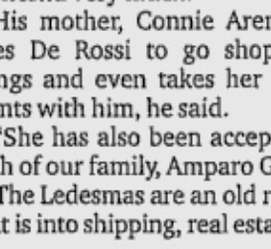

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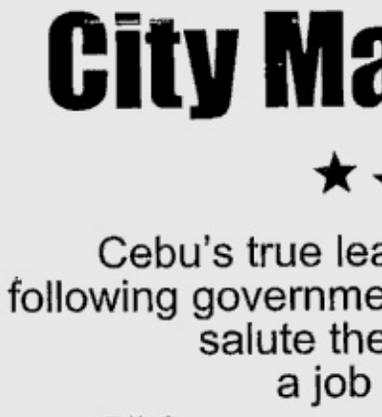

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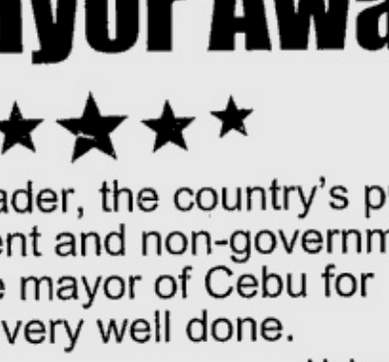


Per DOH-BFAD Permit No.0175 Series of 2002 See posters for details.

8 long, lonely years

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

OUR family marks today, Nov. 4, 2002, the eighth year since my eldest son Jose "Carlo" Iñigo III died in an alleged hit-and-run accident on MacArthur Highway in Marilao, Bulacan. Despite the passage of time, the case remains unsolved, the police are facing a blank wall and the killers are still at large. Carlo died at age 33.

Last All Saints' Day, we gathered around Carlo's simple grave in Marilao, recalling the happy days when he was still alive, young, full of vigor and vitality. He was missed, but his memory lingers.

Way back in 1977, when he was a high school student at St. Mary's Academy in Meycauayan, Bulacan, Carlo had falling marks due to regular absences from his classes.

Nababarkada kasi. Facing expulsion, I wrote the school principal for understanding and forgiveness, assuring her that Carlo had realized his faults, promising that he would never be a problem boy to the school and to his family. He kept that promise.

Upon graduation from high school, Carlo took up fine arts at National University where he was a scholar of the late Leticia "Mommy" Paguia, whom many sportswriters dearly admired for being "one of the boys."

One night, Mommy Paguia, a regular habitue at the National Press Club, where I served twice as director and board secretary under president Neal Cruz, told me that she was proud of Carlo for being an obedient, hard-working and talented student. "*Mabait na bata iyang si* Carlo."

Carlo was also my fishing coach when I won the title of 1994 Media Angler of the Year. He was mighty proud of my achievement and equally delighted for having rubbed elbows with my fishing buddies such as nonpareil angler VicVic Villavicencio, Rolly Estabillo of Philippine Air Lines, INQUIRER news editor Jun Engracia, sports editor Ding Marcelo, Lito Tacujan and Jimmy Cantor and the late sportswriter legend Tonny Siddayao.

TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Singh grabs 3-shot lead

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA—Vijay Singh blew away Tiger Woods and the rest of his challengers at the Tour Championship on Saturday, holing an 80-foot eagle putt on No. 15 and closing strong for a 5-under 65 to take a three-stroke lead into the final round.

The position is familiar to Singh, just not the margin.

He led by one stroke in 1998, losing in a playoff to Hal Sutton.

He was tied with Woods after three rounds in 2000, and both were passed by Phil Mickelson.

This might be the week he closes the deal.

"I hope so," said Singh, who was at 9-under 201. "This is the first time I'm going in with a three-shot lead. It's a lot better than one."

Charles Howell III kept in the hunt with a birdie on the 17th hole and finished with a 69, making him the only player to break par all three rounds at East Lake. He will be paired with Singh in the final round Sunday.

Howell is making his debut in the season-ending tournament for the top 30 players on the money list, but his position is familiar, too.

While he never has played in the final group on a Sunday, he was three behind going into the last day at the Michelob Championship, where he claimed his only PGA Tour victory.

Woods' magical ride around East Lake–which included a birdie from an adjacent fairway and a left-handed shot from the leaves to save par–came to a crashing halt with bogeys on two of his last three holes.

He wound up with a 67 to finish five strokes behind, and will be paired with Mickelson in the final round. Lefty also had a 67 and had to fight just as hard for it.

David Toms also was at 206 after a 70 that featured a rare ruling on the par-3 18th green. His ball stopped in a pitch mark, and Toms had to move it about 2 feet to the left to keep it from rolling down the hill.

That was a fitting conclusion to a bizarre day.

3rd round scores:

201—V. Singh 65-71-65
204—C. Howell 66-69-69
206—D. Toms 70-66-70, T. Woods 71-68-67, P. Mickelson 70-69-67
207—C. DiMarco 70-68-69, J. Kelly 71-69-67
208—S. McCarron 70-69-69, K. Perry 71-69-68
209—K.J. Choi 71-68-70, R. Allenby 74-69-66, S. Lowery 65-71-73, N. Price 73-68-68

HOWELL: In strong contention. AP

Amateur Tour at E. Ridge

FROM putting to shotmaking, the Samsung DigitAll Challenge moves on to the real arena when the Samsung Amateur Tour holds its first eliminations leg on Nov. 14-15 at the Aoki course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club.

The Eagle Ridge stop will be one of the four elimination stages of the Samsung Amateur Tour leading to the grand finals next year at Tagaytay Midlands.

There will be four divisions in the men's event and two in the ladies to be disputed. The men's entries will be classified according to their handicaps - championship (0-4), Class A (5-9) Class B (10-14) and Class C (15-19) - and the ladies into Class A (0-9) and Class B (10-18).

Part of a three-in-one event dubbed as the Samsung DigitAll Golf Challenge, the putting tourney is sponsored by TaylorMade adidas, Gatorade, Maxfli, Fila, Custom Clubmakers, Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers. Wave 89.1, City Lite 88.3, 103.5 K-Lite, Magic 89.9, KillerBee and 99.5 RT are radio partners.

Special items and trophies will be awarded to the top finishers while Samsung appliances including a TV set, VCD, microwave oven, washing machine and refrigerator will be raffled off.

Entry fee is P2,000 and the field will be limited to the first 120 registrants. Interested parties may sign up at the venue or through PSMG (0917-8131874).

The Amateur Tour will also have stops at the Cebu Country Club (Dec. 5-6), Tagaytay Midlands (Jan. 9-10) and Mt. Malarayat (Feb. 6-7).

The DigitAll Challenge was launched last week at Aguinaldo which served as the venue for the first putting eliminations. More than 250 players took part in the two-day competition which picked the first batch of grand finalists.

Also included in the Samsung three-in-one package is the Interscholastics next year.

Jody makes history

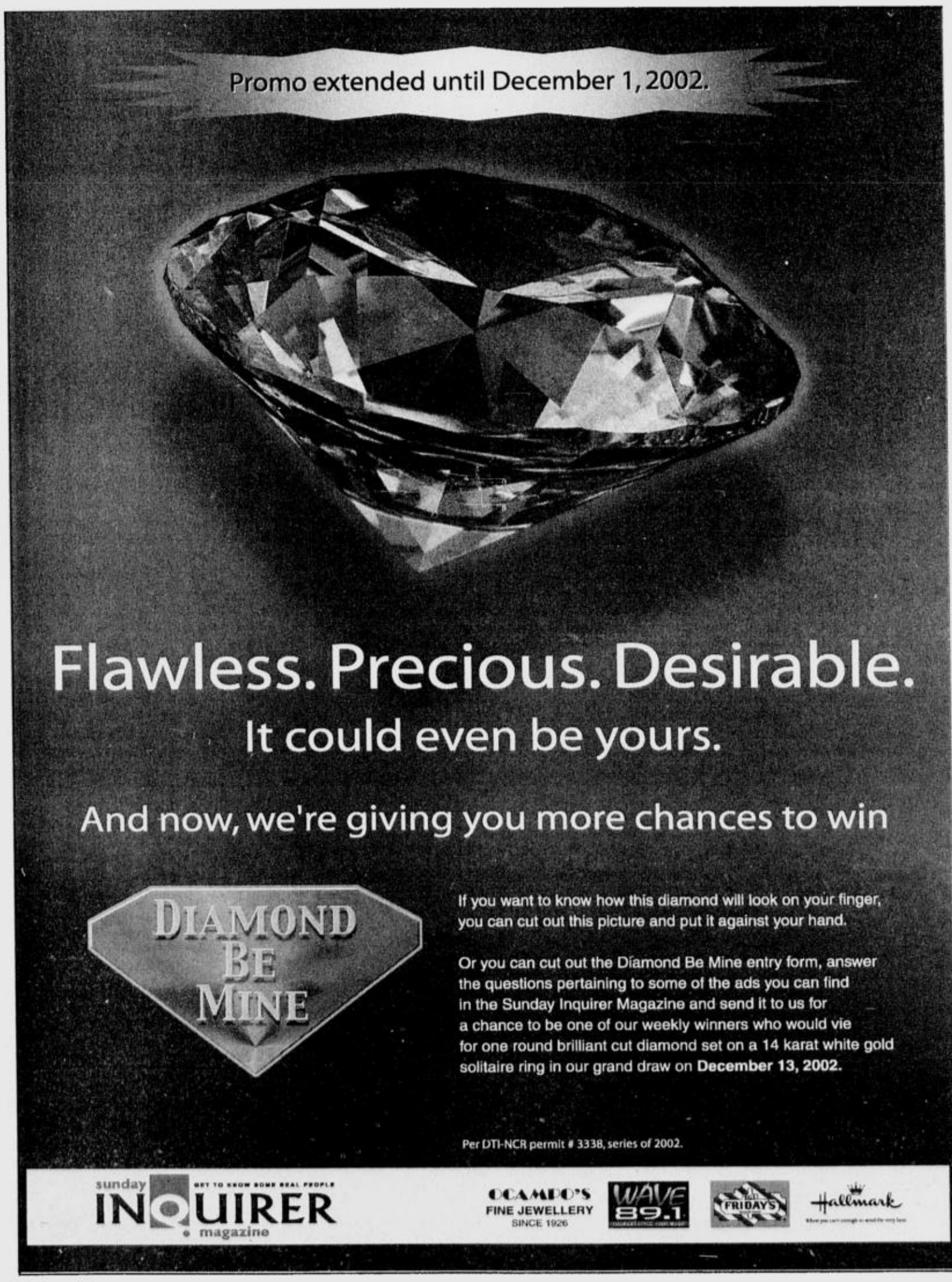
SUBIC Bay Freeport—Caltex Havoline-Red Horse-Autoplus driver Jody Coseteng swept the SVI Super Saloon Series recently, putting him into the record books as one of the country's best drivers.

After clinching the record fifth straight crown in the Philippine National Touring Car Championship last month, Coseteng became the first driver in the history of Subic Grand Prix to win both PNTCC and SVI Super Saloon plums in a single season.

"It's a dream come true. Autoplus was instrumental in keeping the PNTCC title for five straight years. But the entry of Caltex Havoline and Red Horse provided me with the logistics to pursue that dream," said Coseteng.

"I thank my sponsors for their unwavering support. I may have won several titles before, but this victory gave me a different sense of fulfillment and satisfaction. It added a different color to my career, and provided me with a different zest and motivation to reach greater heights."

Coseteng virtually assured himself of the Super Saloon crowns as he led throughout the first race and his closest rival, Kookie Ramirez, was forced out early in the race due to engine problems.



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New York beats San Francisco

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—New York City turned on its star power, flexed its financial muscle and touted its status as the "world's second home" to beat out San Francisco on Saturday and become the US candidate for the 2012 Summer Olympics.

The New York organizers broke into cheers, tears and shouts as the close vote was announced and Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" filled the room.

On a weighted scale of voting by the 123 members of the US Olympic Committee board of directors, New York received 132 out of 223 points.

Assuring the USOC that they have the resources and security to run the world's biggest show, New York organizers laid out an ambitious $5 billion plan that would place virtually all events within city limits.

"We won't bring the Olympics back to the United States on the cheap," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, contrasting the city's plan with a much lower cost bid by San Francisco.

Olympic long jump legend Bob Beamon opened the New York presentation by calling his native city "the place that has welcomed more people with the dream than anywhere else." *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

F1 party at The Fort

THE 2002 Formula One season has ended. But the party is just about to start. Come Nov. 9, Mild Seven is hosting XLR8: the Mild Seven F1 Experience, a day of partying at The Fort at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig with no less than Formula One's undisputed wonder boy—Jenson Button—in attendance. The 22-year-old Button, who placed seventh overall this year with 14 points in the Driver's Championship, will be partying with Filipino F1 fans who are expected to troop to The Fort to get a first-hand look at him and the R202. The R202 is the actual car Button used in giving Mild Seven Renault F1 team the fourth place in this season's Constructor's Championship. Fans will not only have the chance to meet Button face to face, they will also have the opportunity to see him race. Mild Seven is giving away an all-expense paid trip for two to Sepang, Malaysia next year for the Malaysian Grand Prix. Kodak, Total, Oakley, Ralph's Wines and Spirits, FHM and Asia Brewery Inc., are joining the event as partners.

Glenn joins KL meet

MULTI-TITLED Glenn Aguilar will pit guts and skills with the world's best motocross daredevils in the 2002 FIM Asia Pacific Supercross Open in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia today. "I am extremely honored to have been chosen to represent the country in this prestigious one-day tournament," said Aguilar, national rider of the year for six straight times, an accomplishment still unmatched to this day. The Caltex-Revtex-KTM star will have his hands full against riders from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and China among others. Aguilar is being sent to Malaysia by the National Motocross Sports and Safety Association (Namssa), the local governing body of the sport. Recently, Aguilar ruled the premier pro open division of the 1st Gov. Evaristo "Titong" Singson Memorial Cup.

Lleyton stops 'Para'

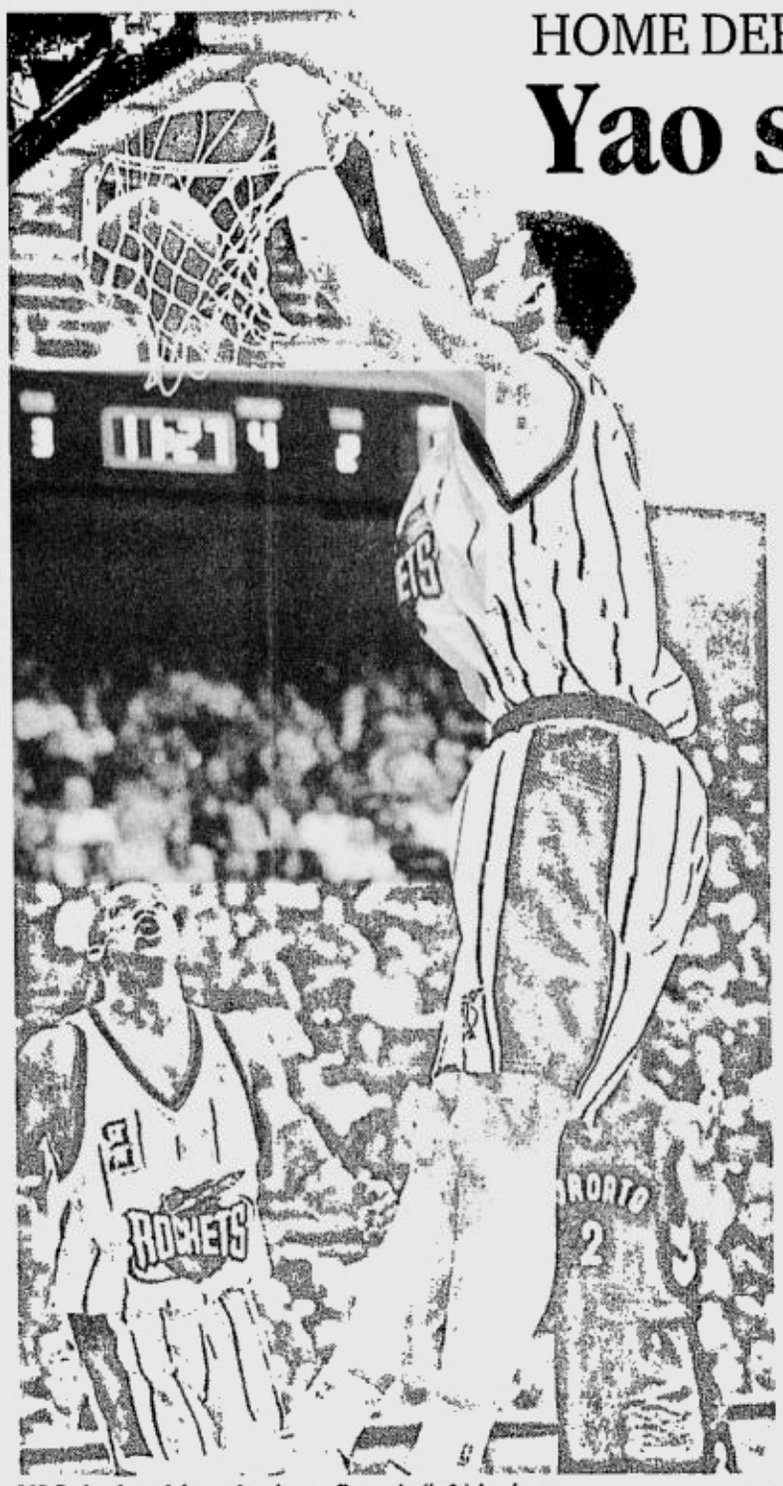
PARIS—Top seed Lleyton Hewitt reached the final of the Paris Masters by beating Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 on Saturday, setting up a clash against former champion Marat Safin. Safin earlier defeated Spaniard Carlos Moya 7-5, 7-6 (4) to qualify for his third Paris Masters final in four years. Hewitt sealed victory when Paradorn sent a backhand long. The rising Thai star had saved two match points with stunning backhands down the line, and bowed to the cheering crowd after his defeat. *AP*

5th title for Sarah

DOHA—Australia's Sarah Fitz-Gerald achieved the last goal of her glittering career on Saturday when she clinched a record fifth World Open squash title with a battling win over England's Natalie Pohrer in an incident-packed match. The Australian suffered several tumbles on a slippery floor and the match had to be stopped three times—once for 15 minutes—while the air conditioning was switched on to remove condensation from the surface. Fitz-Gerald also resisted a mid-match fightback from Pohrer before sealing a 10-8, 9-3, 7-9, 9-7 victory. *Reuters*

What A Spell prevails

FAR second favorite What A Spell won the Sampaguita Stakes in wire-to-wire style yesterday at Santa Ana. What A Spell was ridden by Dominador "Rapid Fire" Borbe Jr. Halo Effect was second followed by Golden Ballet, while Magical Mark finished fourth. The winner got P600,000.



YAO dunks with authority as Francis (left) looks on. AFP

HOME DEBUT

Yao shines for Rockets

By Michael A. Lutz
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON—Steve Francis scored 28 points and Yao Ming provided some entertaining moments in his NBA home debut as the Houston Rockets beat the Toronto Raptors, 88-76.

The Raptors played most of the game Saturday night without guard Vince Carter, who left with 6:17 to go in the first quarter with a strained right knee and did not return. Team trainers said he would be re-examined Sunday.

Toronto also lost forward Antonio Davis with 4:11 to go in the third period with a strained muscle in his left ribcage.

Yao entered the game with 8:18 to go in the first quarter with fans cheering his every move. He scored his second NBA basket moments later with a hook shot and drove around Mamadoi N'diaye moments later for two points.

"I learned that in China, I've been using it for a while," Yao said of his move on N'diaye. "I saw somebody do it but I don't remember who it was."

The 2.29-meter (7-foot-6) center grabbed a deflected pass in the third quarter and slammed in a dunk. He finished with eight points, four rebounds, one block and three fouls.

Yao, the NBA's No. 1 overall draft choice, was scoreless in his NBA debut Wednesday night and finished with two points on 1-of-5 shooting and seven rebounds Friday at Denver, where the Rockets beat the Nuggets 83-74.

Complete results:

Atlanta 98, Chicago 92; Indiana 87, Minnesota 80; New Jersey 87, Washington 79; Boston 117, New York 107; Sacramento 116, Memphis 99; Utah 101, Golden State 92; Dallas 97, Phoenix 83; Houston 88, Toronto 76; Orlando 100, Milawaukee 90; New Orleans 100, Miami 95.

Lagon tops Balbina

BUSINESSMAN-sportsman Sonny Lagon, proud owner of Blue Blade farm, scored seven wins in as many fights during the just concluded P3M 2002 Balbina Cup 7-Stag Breeders Derby at the Balbina Cockpit in Pontevedra, Negros Oriental.

Hosted by Ambassador Danding Cojuangco, the event attracted a total of 142 top-caliber entries.

Lagon's Ma. Cristian entry (financed by Joseph Sy) fielded a combination of straight-sweater, sweater-kelso and sweater-gilmore stags trained and conditioned at the Blue Blade Farm in San Pablo City, with Bexan XP and Thunderbird Hi-Protein Power Pellets, by brothers Armilo and Micoy Timbas with Gildo Marino as knif-man.

Lagon's bet practically went through the eye of a needle as his birds hurdled a formidable lineup of opponents.

LGBA derby entries submission today

TODAY is the submission of official entries to the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 2nd Stag Series 2002 6-Stag Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum. The event is slated tomorrow and on Thursday (Nov. 5 and 7).

Entries must be submitted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 at 535-2341.

Derby sponsors are Pit Fighter Feeds and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug, Thunderbird Enertone, Amtyl 500 of Excellence Gamefowl Specialists and Derby Ace from San Miguel Feeds.

The first LGBA stagfest, held last Oct. 21 and 23, was participated in by 67 cockers and gamefowl breeders from Luzon. EDL Crowsland Excellence I of Rep. Lawrence Wacnang emerged as solo champion after posting six straight victories

But expected to bounce back tomorrow are Alex Tang and Nelson Co of Camarines Sur, Vice Gov. Mario Espinosa of Masbate, Gov. Raul Molintas, Tony Boy Tabora and Jay Sobrepena of Mountain Province, Rep. Chito Bersamin of Abra, Eugene Martin of La Union, Alex Chan, R. Tan, Osmond Lambino, Manuel Lui and Romy Dalmacio of Pangasinan; Former Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Esting Teopaco and Capt. Ben Rodriguez of Tarlac, Danny Pineda and Boots Yap of Pampanga.

Roligon tourney gets going tonight

AFTER a week-long break, Metro Manila's derby aficionados will again converge at Roligon Mega Cockpit as the 4-stag derby fires off at 7 tonight featuring 50 exciting fights.

Invited by derby hosts Blandy Tolentino of San Pablo City and popular *llamador* Abo Centeno are well-known derbyists like Lito Orillaza, Pol Estrellado, Louie Cua, Renato Shio, ASF Group, lawyer Rudy Salud, Danny Ty, lawyer Romero Yu, Eric dela Rosa and Butchoy Olano of Pasay among others.

Stags banded by Ucap, NCA, LGBA, GFBAN, NGBA and MIGBA will be accepted. Submission of weights is on derby day, from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. All participants must be at Roligon before 3 p.m.

For other details, please contact 833-2275 and 833-1638.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, Robert Angelo and Junjun Toledo beat Joel Palao and Dodong Amazona, 6-2, 6-2, to capture the doubles plum of the Bais City Open men's tennis championship at the Bais Tennis Center.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by
L. Manguiat

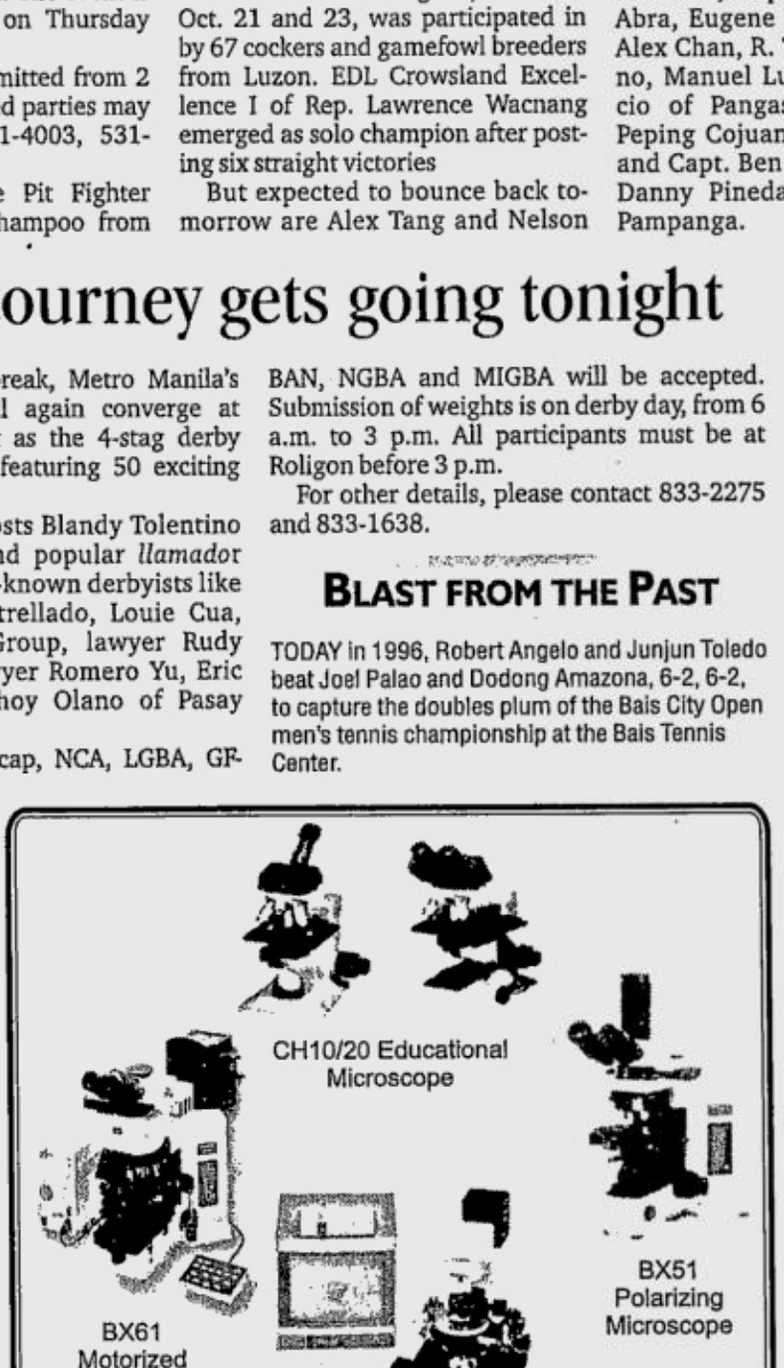
GOLF: The Tour Championship, 2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Star Sports

POOL: 2000 World Pool Masters - Ralf Souquet vs Alex Lely Finals, 5 p.m. (r), ESPN; World Pool Masters 2002, 7 p.m., ESPN

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL Primetime, 8:30 a.m., ESPN

NFL - Jacksonville Jaguars vs New York Giants, 9:30 a.m., ESPN; NFL's Greatest Moments Untimely Endings, 4:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

BILLIARDS WINNERS
Tournament director Lito Sarinas (extreme left) is shown with the winners of the recent Makati Square Billiards Association (from left) Mark Salvanera (Class A), Singapore Open champion Rubilen Amit (Class O), Almond de Vera (Class B) and Edward Weber (Class C). At right is MSBA president Joel Babanto.



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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

Pinoy chessers, Portuguese draw

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippine men's team drew with Portugal, while the women's squad lost to Iran after eight rounds of the 35th Chess Olympiad here Saturday. Petronio Roca lost to Fernando Diego in a 59-move Nimzo-Indian Defense, as Portugal salvaged a 2-2 draw. The Filipinos now share 40th to 51st places.

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Coke rips Purefoods

By June Navarro

GAMES WEDNESDAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
5:30 p.m.—Shell vs Talk N Text
7:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Red Bull

COCA-COLA completely outplayed Purefoods and stormed to a lopsided 83-58 victory last night in the Selecta-PBA All-Filipino Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Tigers needed only two quarters to trounce the Hotdogs and register their second straight win after losing to Batang Red Bull two weeks ago.

The Tigers, now sharing the second spot with their victims and the Barangay Ginebra Kings at 2-1, routed Shell, 80-52, before last night's annihilation of the Hotdogs.

"I wasn't expecting this. I was surprised because we caught them on an off night," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes, whose Tigers inflicted the Hotdogs their worst setback in a 40-minute game.

San Miguel Beer's sticky defense and Danny Ildefonso's offensive rebound in the final minute lifted the Beermen past Alaska, 64-63, in the other game. Olsen Racela scored all of his 14 points in the second half, including two triples at crunchtime as the Beermen improved to 2-1. The Aces fell to 1-2.

Scores:

COCA-COLA 83—Hatfield 17, Antonio 13, Abarrientos 13, Cariaso 9, Morano 9 Avenido 8, Julnio 6, Abuda 4, Bolado 2, Reavis 2, Lao 0, Manalo 0.

PUREFOODS 58—Patrimonio 15, Seigle 13, Raymundo 13, Castillo 4, Yap 4, Fernan 3, Cantonjos 2, Evangelista 2, Balingit 2, Escobar 0, Magsanoc 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 48-22, 70-33, 83-58.

PBL on today

GAMES TODAY *(Pasig Sports Complex)*
3 p.m.—LBC-Batangas vs Montaña
5 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs John O

COMEBACKING Welcoat Paints parades a powerhouse lineup as it tackles John O today at the start of the PBL Challenge Cup at the Pasig Sports Complex.

This will be the first time in its history that the PBL will hold its opening games at Pasig City.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad described the conference as "a convergence of the best talents outside the PBA" with top players from the now-defunct MBA and the best talents from the UAAP and the NCAA strutting their wares. *Dennis U. Eroa*

It's like driving a Ferrari on the Autobahn.

When the Internet started as a simple network of computers used mainly by scientists, researchers and academics, no one predicted it would turn into a new global medium. The World Wide Web, the most-often accessed part of the Internet, has sites that equal (sometimes, exceed) the broadcast media in terms of production values and visual style, while the contents rival that of found in print.

Plug-ins such as Flash, Shockwave, RealAudio, among others heighten the Internet experience. No wonder everyday, millions of people jump into the so-called Information Superhighway a.k.a the Infobahn, to access things like up-to-the-second news to episode guides of their favorite TV series, walkthroughs of their favorite computer games to more esoteric stuff like Alyssa Milano movie trailers, proof of alien life photos and Styx lyrics. With such a wealth of information available, it's not surprising that this virtual freeway will be jammed. Since, like its real life counterpart, the more users, the more congested it will be. Also, the more flash (pun intended), the heavier the website will be. Which means, if your hook-up to the Web isn't optimal, downloading the site on your PC can be as fun as watching paint dry. In other words, ordinary dial-up connections just don't cut it anymore.

Speed through the infobahn

This is where a PLDT myDSL connection comes in handy. Imagine waiting for 6 hours downloading that rare Pearl Jam audition MP3 using your dial-up, when your sister picks up the phone to use it. Unfortunately for you, murder is still a crime. But if you have myDSL, not only you can download MP3s in a breeze, you can also chat while doing so. All while your little sister is talking on the phone with her friend about her supposedly Josh Hartnett-looking crush. However, with the unlimited time and dedicated time you have online, your brother (or son) will have a difficult time going back to the real world after spending days and nights in virtual worlds like EverQuest or battle.net. W… need to insta… a dedicated c… copper wires… DSL technolo… carries data a… or fax calls, … carried in one… other telepho… waiting. And … (essentially … connection to… fall in perfo… connect and … arising from p…

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…, you don't …em to get …t uses the …ur telephone. …Subscriber Line) …ency than voice …multaneously be …sn't interfere with … Caller ID or call …ble-based systems …work where the … shared), it doesn't …ore subscribers … security problems …ffing.

…nyDSL connection, …m hosting your own …ganization in school …n play your school's …ming and video …so 90's). You can immortalize the Mr. Roboto dance number you did in your last reunion in Quicktime video, and upload it in your family's website for everybody's enjoyment. You can also put your library of self-composed MP3s and just hope somebody will download it.

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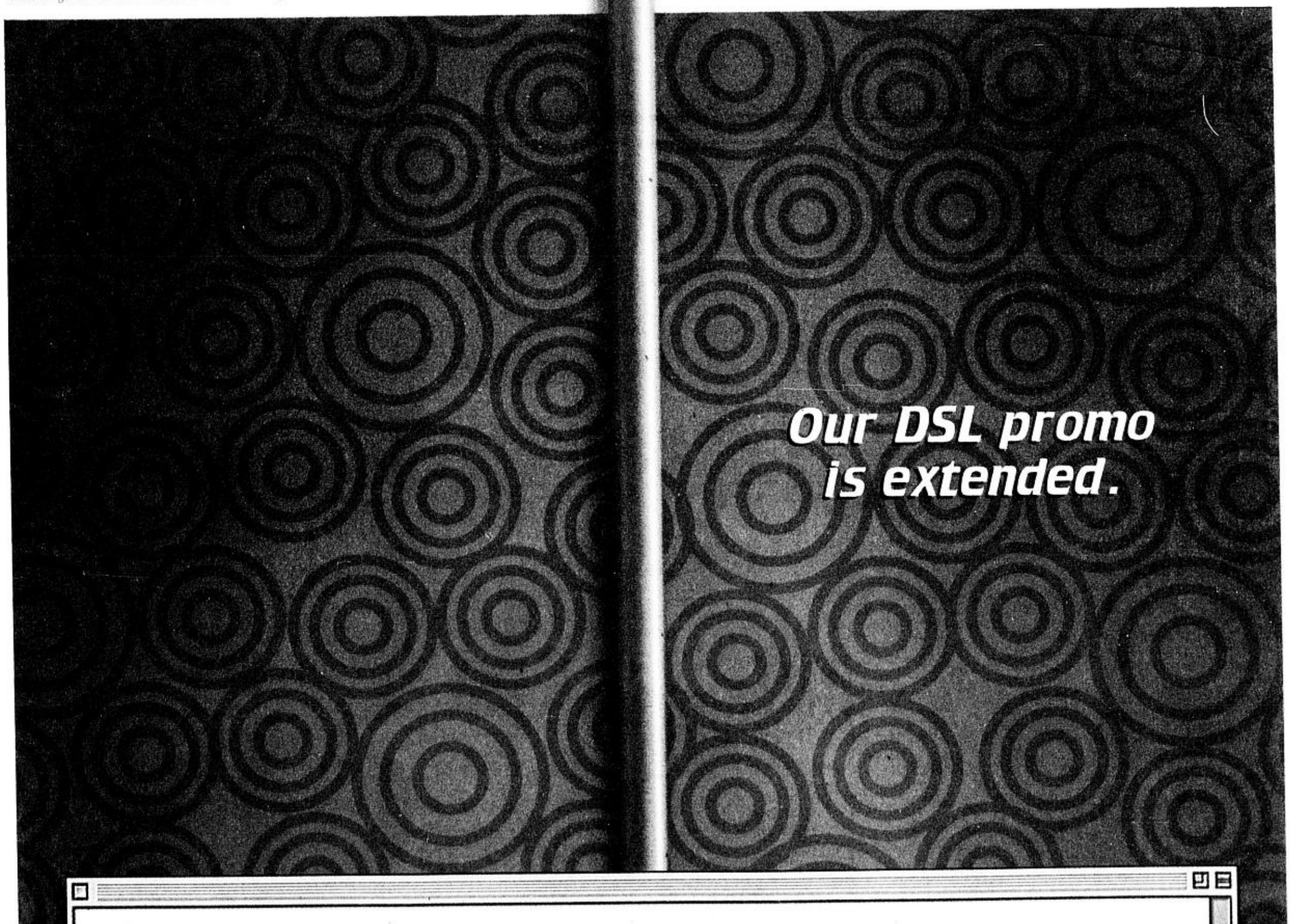
With that said, there is no reason for you and your family not to hook up with PLDT myDSL. PLDT's extended offer of free installation and free one-month subscription is too juicy to pass up. That's an easy P4,500 savings at least. All you have to do is be a PLDT post-paid landline subscriber living in a DSL-capable area (a PLDT Tech team will visit your home and determine if your line is DSL-ready). Definitely, it's the best time to connect to the country's premier high-velocity residential broadband internet service - PLDT myDSL. For more info, check out the details below.



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'Ex-cop could be in drug ring'

By Christian V. Esguerra

A FORMER policeman is believed to be part of the drug ring that operated a big shabu laboratory inside a middle-class subdivision in Parañaque City, according to Supt. Ruben Catabona, the city's police chief.

Catabona yesterday said that the discharged officer is now under surveillance by members of the local police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

He said that police are also looking for at least five people, most of them women, who had supposedly escaped from the drug laboratory on Hemlock Street at Executive Heights Subdivision in Barangay Sun Valley, hours before it was raided at about 6 p.m. on Friday.

Residents told authorities that the suspects who escaped looked Chinese.

Catabona said that police already know the whereabouts of Teddy Monasterio, supposed owner of the house where the illegal drugs were manufactured.

Bert Guevara, chair of Barangay Sun Valley, said the house had already been foreclosed.

He said on Friday that Monasterio was a basketball player who used to operate a garments business.

During the raid last Friday, police also found basketball jerseys with "Monasterio" printed on them.

Police will file today drug and bribery charges before the Parañaque prosecutor's office against Bin Xu Zi, 30, who was arrested at about 4 a.m. Friday immediately after he left the house on board a Mitsubishi van.

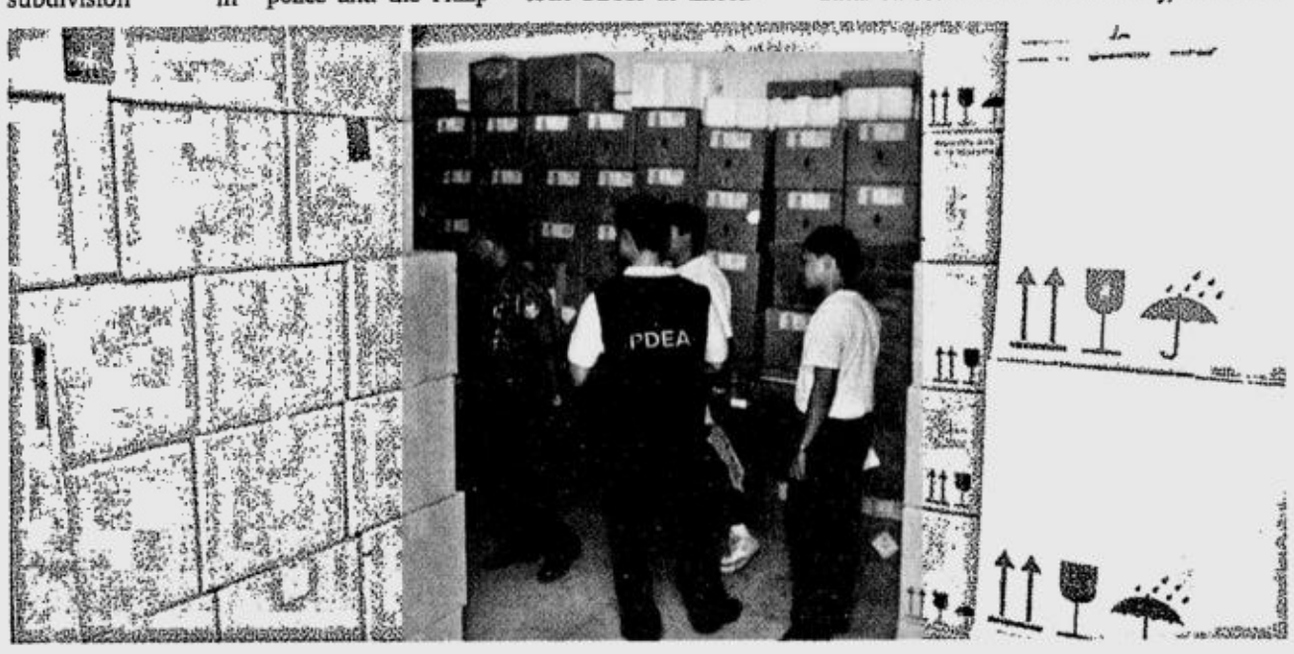
Bin was found with an undetermined amount of illegal substances.

Later in the evening, police seized at least five assembled shabu-making equipment, at least 20 boxes containing bottles of thionyl chloride, drug-making diagrams and ingredients, and other contraband.

Thionyl chloride is a key ingredient in the manufacture of shabu, according to Senior Insp. Nedy Muarit of the PDEA's Special Enforcement Unit.

The seized goods were brought to the PDEA headquarters in Camp Crame yesterday, Catabona said.

The city police chief said Bin used the name Crispin Ong to conceal his real identity from residents of Sun Valley.



THE HOUSE on Hemlock Street also yielded "poison," boxes and boxes of chemicals used in the manufacture of shabu.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

■ Anti-polo suspects will be 'put away for good' /A27

■ Drug deal gone wrong /A27

■ Tugboat helper drowns /A27

■ Final details of Manila curfew /A26

■ GMA gives P17-M for drugstores for Metro's elderly /A26

■ BARE EYE: Pacquiao red-hot, but Luisito must stop it /A26

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Final details of Manila curfew

By Jerome Aning

THE FOLLOWING are corrections on the report on the curfew for youths in Manila.

The corrections, mostly in the number of hours and the ages earlier reported, are based on the final version of the law, as pointed out by its author, Manila Councilor Julio Logarta Jr.

The "passes" or certificates exempting youths from the curfew will be issued only to students who go to school and youths who work at night.

All youths arrested by barangay authorities for violating the curfew must not be held for more than three hours.

If a violator is apprehended in a barangay other than the one where he resides, he must be transferred to his home barangay and booked by his home barangay's curfew advisory board.

No matter how many times they are caught violating the curfew, youths aged below 15 years old will only be reprimanded and their parents will be admonished by the BCAB.

First-time violators in the 15 to 17 age bracket will be reprimanded and their parents will be admonished by the BCAB.

Second-time offenders in the same age bracket will still be reprimanded and their parents admonished. But this time, the offenders and their parents will be warned about the legal implications of further violations.

Those who violate the curfew for third and subsequent times will be charged in court by the city prosecutor and, if found guilty, they will be jailed for one to 10 days, or fined P2,000, or both if the judge decides so.

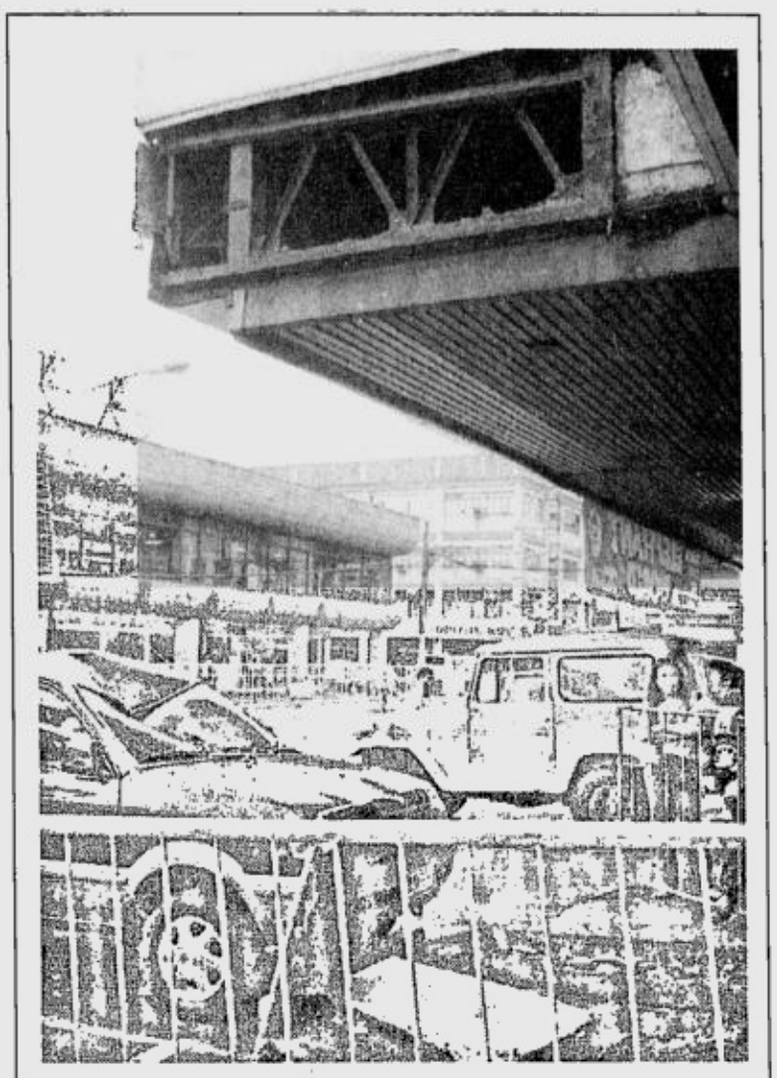
After being booked, the offender who is homeless or who does not have relatives in the city must be turned over to the Manila Youth Reception Center or the city's social welfare department in 12 hours, or as soon as office hours begin.

If the violator is arrested by the police and he is a Manila resident, he should be turned over to the curfew board within six hours for proper action.

If he is a non-Manila resident, the violator must be turned over immediately to the curfew board.

Authorities in each barangay are additionally tasked to warn the minors about the curfew an hour before it takes effect, through warning bells or a public address system.

The minors' curfew law, or Ordinance No. 8046, was signed by Mayor Lito Atienza last Oct. 14 and would take effect after 30 days.



LUCKY OWNER?
The owner of the Toyota Revo (WKU 233) at left parked the vehicle in front of the New Frontier Cinema at the Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City one day last week. Ten minutes later, the unidentified owner came back and found the vehicle smashed by a piece of the old building that had fallen on the car roof.

JOAN BONDOC

GMA gives P17 M for drugstores for Metro's elderly

AT LEAST 350,000 elderly people from all over Metro Manila are expected to benefit from the P17-million livelihood assistance which President Macapagal-Arroyo has just extended in recognition of the elderly's contribution to society.

President Macapagal-Arroyo gave P1 million to each of the 17 chapters of the Federation of Senior Citizens' Association of the Philippines (FSCAP) in the National Capital Region for a drugstore project for the 350,000 members of the association.

The President personally distributed the assistance in a luncheon she hosted for officers and members of the association to cap the celebration of the Elderly Filipino Week.

Members of the organization will run the drugstores, which will sell drugs and medicines cheaper than retail market rates.

The officers and members of FSCAP have started undergoing seminars conducted by the Department of Trade and Industry and Malacañang on the project.

The drugstores will also be open to the general public.

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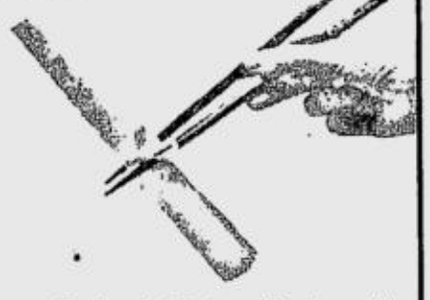

For batch 2004, applications will be accepted in April 2003. Visit us at www. mepco.panasonic.com.ph to know more on how YOU can be the next Filipino student to receive the 2004 Panasonic Scholarship grant for Master's Course in Japan !

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Pacquiao red-hot, but Luisito must stop it

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THEY have four world-boxing crowns between them.

Luisito Espinosa had been owner of the world bantamweight and featherweight titles.

Manny Pacquiao, reigning world super bantamweight champ, previously was world fly weight title-holder.

But there's no point in comparing the two ring gladiators.

Espinosa, way past his prime, in his last fight appeared ripe for a California convalescent home.

Pacquiao, at his hottest, is set and raring to conquer the world.

Another thing: Unlike Espinosa, Pacquiao won't be caught foolishly endangering himself inside the square jungle after his fighting years are over.

***

This is not meant to be a critique of the respective worth of two gifted pugilists.

Luisito, pound for pound, was one of the world's best when he did not have wet noodles to hold his knees and his chin was not as delicate as a prized China ware.

This is a concerned call for his handlers to surrender Espinosa's ring license while the man still has his senses.

The fearful thing here is that, the way he was consoled after being stopped in his last fight, the gutsy former two-time world-boxing king might refuse to give up.

The message in that last kayo loss was loud and clear: Espinosa, dull, a willing and easy target, must now move out of harm's way.

***

And where to?

Well, Espinosa, who's said to be sidelining as a bartender around Daly City, could take a full-time job in a boxing gym.

Or he could come home where he could help train future world champs, maybe at Elorde's or L & M.

Actually, we can't blame Espinosa if he had agreed to overstay under the flood lights for a few dollars and with the hope of regaining respect.

The culprit here was that non-bout against a certain Ever Beleno earlier this year. Beleno had been trumpeted hereabouts as a tough and calibered competitor.

A later check by fight chronicler Nick Giongco, after Espinosa had disposed of Beleno, bared that the loser had lost seven of his last eight fights, with at least four defeats coming via stoppage.

***

Well, you need not be an expert to detect that Espinosa no longer has it.

He indeed had crisply essayed some of the finest moments inside the ring—against Galaxy, Snead, Medina, Cobrita Gonzales, Soto and Rios. It goes without saying that Espinosa must stop embarrassing himself and his countrymen who had looked up to him as a national treasure.

Losing Luisito was more a case of too many punches on too many nights in too many rings.

He could be deluded by the thought that he could still swing it. Espinosa must be saved from himself. And make it quick, please.

Anyway, as earlier stated, Pacquiao cannot be expected to overstay like Espinosa.

If Pacquiao, say, decides to hang up his gloves next year, he could enter a pool parlor and walk away with peso wads in his pocket.

Those who have followed Pacquiao's billiards exploits swear that the power-punching GenSan native has what it takes to be a future pool champ.

National pool team member Marlon Manalo says Pacquiao, other than being a fast learner, is a very dedicated student of the game. Manalo is amazed at Pacquiao's deft pocketing.

Malaya columnist Fred Lumba reports that he had seen Pacquiao compete in big-money duels and the world champ often ended up richer.

***

Well, maybe this need not be mentioned.

But unlike Espinosa, who was cheated of his $130,000 purse in a title bout against Carlos Rios in Koronadal, South Cotabato, Pacquiao's P8-million purse in his last outing in nearby Davao was paid in full on the eve of the championship.

This was confirmed by North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol who said that when he ran short of pesos, something like half a million, he offered Pacquiao's business manager $10,000 as bond until the bank could open the Monday after the Saturday night championship.

All the fees and purses were paid up to the last centavo.

They lost some money, but Gov. Piñol said Davao and countless countrymen ended up the big winner.

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5. Must have annual family income of P150,000 or less
6. Must be qualified to enroll in any of the specified courses in selected state universities or colleges by June 2003 (list may be found in the application form)

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3. Residence Certificate for year 2002
4. Police Clearance not older than three months
5. Official Transcript of Records from 1st year to 4th Year (until October 2002 if graduating in 2003).
6. Certification on school letterhead signed by school principal or head with information of the following:
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   c. Good moral character
7. BIR Income Tax Return or Tax Exemption of parents for the years 2000 and 2001.
8. Photocopy of electricity bills for the past 3months, if any
9. Photocopy of telephone bills for the past 3 months, if any
10. Completed application form. Application forms may be downloaded from www.mepco.panasonic.com.ph or obtained from any plant or branch office of MEPCO nationwide. **Forms may be photocopied.**

All application forms with complete documentary requirements should be enclosed and sealed in a short brown envelope and must be received by any MEPCO office not later than **December 31, 2002.**

Address applications or inquiries to:
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Panasonic Scholarship Office
Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, November 4, 2002
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Phil 2:1-4
Gospel: Lk 14:12-14

Jesus addressed the man who had invited him and said, "When you give a lunch or a dinner, don't invite your friends, or your brothers and relatives and wealthy neighbors. For surely they will also invite you in return and you will be repaid. When you give a feast, invite instead the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind. Fortunate are you then, because they can't repay you; you will be repaid at the Resurrection of the upright."

Commentary

Jesus speaks to us of the "gratuity" of charity, but his words also point to the things that are a part of our lives which we are "freely given": misfortunes, work, sufferings, death . . .

Jesus wishes to tell us that we cannot understand this dimension of our life, and neither will we know how to accept it without the vision of a just and loving God, and without the vision of our own resurrection and of a human destiny which finds only full explanation in the eternity of God.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Documents are either public or private—Under the rules on evidence, documents are either public or private. Private documents are those that do not fall under any of the enumerations in Section 19, Rule 132 of the Rules of Court. Section 20 of the same law, in turn, provides that before any private documents is received in evidence, its due execution and authenticity must be proved either by anyone who saw the document executed or written, or by evidence of the genuineness of the signature or handwriting of the maker. Here, respondent's documentary exhibits are private documents. They are not among those enumerated in Section 19, thus, their due execution and authenticity need to be proved before they can be admitted in evidence. With the exception concerning the summary of the weight of the steel billets imported, respondent presented no supporting evidence concerning their authenticity. Consequently, they cannot be utilized to prove less of the insured cargo and/or the short delivery of the imported steel billets. The Court finds no sufficient competent evidence to prove petitioner's liability. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, Malayan Insurance Co., Inc. v. Philippine Nails and Wires Corporation, G. R. No. 138084, April 10, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

ANTIPOLO LOTTO WINNER'S KILLING

Suspects will be 'put away for good'

By Nelson F. Flores

ANTIPOLO City police yesterday assured members of the family of slain lotto winner Arturo Eupeña that there is enough evidence to throw the suspects in jail.

Supt. Jose Dayco, Antipolo City police chief, said all evidence against the suspects, including the Toyota Hi-Ace van owned by the Eupeña family, which police had recovered during the arrest of one of the suspects, and the positive identification of the suspects by witnesses are more than enough to convict the accused.

Dayco said that government lawyers had assured him that the suspects would be "put away for good."

Dayco said suspects Francisco Areque, 26; Rolando Velasco, 36; Renato Rasonado, 23; Samuel Guiba, 40; Luisito Caindoy, 20; Aurelio Omega, 51; Eric Penalosa, 24; Noel Pinoso Olmoroto, 30l; Lito Abarico, 43; and Joselito Rose, 39, were charged last Oct. 31 with robbery with homicide, illegal possession of firearms, car theft and illegal possession of deadly weapon before the Antipolo prosecutors' office.

Dayco said the charges were filed after police determined who among the suspects were involved in Eupeña's killing. Aside from the van, police found on the suspects an improvised shotgun with ammunition, a toy 9 mm Beretta, and a .45 pistol with seven live ammunition.

Investigators believe that the .45 pistol was the one used to kill Eupeña.

The suspects were arrested in different places late Wednesday night and early Thursday morning.

Dayco said that when Velasco was arrested, he was recuperating from a gunshot wound he apparently suffered during the robbery and killing of Eupeña.

Dayco added that the bullet was still in Velasco's body when policemen arrested him, but the bullet has since been removed.

Eupeña was apparently able to shoot at the suspects with a .45 pistol, hitting Velasco in the shoulder.

Police have yet to determine if the gun found on the suspects is the same .45 pistol that was used in killing Eupeña.

Police are still hunting down two other suspects identified only as Andy and Bert.

Eupeña was killed last week in his home at Block 9 Lot 2, Nazarene Ville, Barangay San Roque, after a drinking party to celebrate his 58th birthday.

At least five armed men entered Eupena's house to rob him. He was shot after he apparently resisted.

The suspects took with them the family's newly bought Toyota Hi-Ace van.

Dayco also revealed that Velasco and Areque were among the guests at Eupeña's birthday party, held at the back of his house.

He added that Eupeña's adopted son Reynan, 31, had identified the two as among the guests.

Antipolo Mayor Angelito Gatlabayan yesterday congratulated Dayco and his men for a job well done. He said the immediate arrest of the suspects is proof that the city's police are not sleeping on their job.

Drug deal gone wrong

A 19-YEAR-OLD suspected drug addict was killed, his throat slashed, by one of three unidentified men during a small drug deal gone wrong Friday morning in Caloocan City.

Neighbors found the body of Ferdinand Ancla, of Bagong Silang Caloocan, in his house at about 5 a.m. Friday, according to PO3 Rolando Balistoy.

Ancla was last seen in the company of three men the night before he was found dead, police said.

Police said Ancla, who was said to be a drug dependent, could have double-crossed the suspects over a couple of sachets of shabu or methamphetamine hydrochloride.

Police said they found in the victim's room drug paraphernalia such as aluminum foil and plastic sachets.

Tina Santos

POLICE STATION PICKET
Strikers from the JAC Liner bus company and sympathizers from the militant group Kilusang Mayo Uno hold a picket at the Central Police District Station 10 on Edsa in Quezon City. Police had detained six JAC workers and eight sympathizers, including a 10-year-old boy, for trying to stop the bus firm operations last week.
JOAN BONDOC

Tugboat helper drowns

TUGBOAT helper Pedrito Lozada, 30, was fished out of the Pasig River on All Souls' Day after drinking with friends.

The body of Lozada, of 2nd Street, Port Area, Manila, was bloated beyond recognition when his fellow workers found it, said Detective Alfredo Salazar of the Western Police District.

The victim was clad in denim pants and and a shirt.

Salazar said the victim was fished out of the river along the Baseco Compound in Port Area.

SPO4 Eduardo Diaz said he earlier saw Lozada drinking with some co-workers on a barge. A few hours later, Lozada was found in the river.

Police said he could have slipped due to his drunkenness.

Salazar said the victim's body was brought to a police morgue for autopsy and safekeeping.

Philip C. Tubeza

Isabela High alumni reunion

THE ISABELA National High School Alumni Association and the silver jubilarians of Batch '78 will hold the Isabela High Alumni Affair on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Quezon Hall of the Philippine Columbian Association in Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

The affair, which starts at 6 p.m., intends to drum up support for next year's alumni homecoming and the school's centennial celebration in 2004. Other projects will also be discussed.

For particulars, please call Arlette at 0917-8369668, Leo at 0917-8109062 or 849-3468, Gigi at 563-2859, Lina at 0920-5033121 or your batch representative.

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SINGSING NI LOLA	RED DRAGON 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30		BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF 12:10, 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30	GHOST SHIP
GHOST SHIP	MR. DEEDS	REGINE VELASQUEZ - SONGBIRD SONGS NOV. 8-9, 21-22-23, 29-30 / DEC. 6-7,13-14, 20-21, 27-28	THE SANTA CLAUSE 2 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	RED DRAGON
	BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER		RED DRAGON 1:10, 3:45, 6:20, 8:55, 11:30	THE SANTA CLAUSE 2
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3 STA. CLAUSE 2
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7 SINGSING NI LOLA
8 GHOST SHIP
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10 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

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8 SINGSING NI LOLA

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4 RED DRAGON
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Toward a more intelligent appreciation of cinema

By Constantino C. Tejero

ARTFILM, which used to be often full-packed when it was housed in Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, has noticeably lost a considerable number of its audience when it transferred to Greenbelt 1. We hazard a few reasons for this.

First, it is now less accessible to the masses, including students, office workers, mallrats, commuters waiting for their ride, who congregate more in the Glorietta than in the Greenbelt area. Also, to reach the latter, you have to go through a secluded park, one-way streets, dimly lit passageways, which is a major turnoff, while the former is fully lit amid ample spaces, which is a come-on.

As one frustrated cineaste says, the place is so remote, you have to pass by a lot of trees, rocks and bodies of water, that going to Greenbelt is like going out of town. (This is an exaggeration, of course.)

Second, its programming has been upgraded to less commercial but more substantial stuff, which appeal only to hardcore cineastes. Instead of the usual Sundance fare which got screened in commercial theaters a few weeks later, we now see exclusive screenings of Todd Solondz's patently provocative "Storytelling" and Wong Kar-wai's unbelievably luscious "In the Mood for Love."

There may be other reasons, but the above are sufficient to keep the crowd at bay.

To attract more patrons, the people behind ArtFilm Greenbelt recently launched a coffee club. It is meant to be "a gathering of Manila's film enthusiasts who will view fresh, independent, critically acclaimed films and thereafter participate in an insightful discussion on the featured film and engage in various related activities."

This may sound a little pat, if not altogether foolhardy. Those people obviously believe there's enough number of cineastes in Metro Manila to sustain their utopia.

The mission statement elaborates: "In addition to engaging in aspects of the film presentation, the interaction may also delve into other technical, thematic and creative concerns involving cinema. We will invite resource speakers and renowned industry practitioners from various film disciplines, such as noted film critics, directors, cinematographers, actors, to contribute to the discussions."

They're really serious. And as well they should be.

The ArtFilm Coffee Club was launched on Oct. 15, highlighted by a special screening of Oliver Parker's remake of "The Importance of Being Earnest." This was capped by a lively discussion of the film at the cinema foyer, which was moderated by Cultural Center of the Philippines film-department officer in charge Ed Cabagnot (an audacious fellow who has the gumption to screen such stuff as "La Haine" and "Kolya" at the CCP).

The following days at ArtFilm Greenbelt saw the holding of the Spanish Film Festival, which screened such hard-to-come-by jewels as Carlos Saura's "Goya en Burdeos" and Alejandro Amenabar's "Tesis."

This was followed by the screening of a major Bollywood movie, Rajkumar Santoshi's "The Legend of Bhagat Singh." Now showing is another must-see film: Joel and Ethan Coen's "The Man Who Wasn't There."

Well, off to a good start.

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Richard Harris remembered

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NEWS that veteran actor **Richard Harris** had passed away last Oct. 25 at age 72 saddened his fans worldwide, including those in the Philippines. Harris had quite a number of followers here, thanks to his strong and textured performances.

Even before he attracted attention in "The Sporting Life," he had appeared in films like "Shake Hands with the Devil," "The Wreck of the Mary Deare," "Night Fighters," "The Guns of Navarone," and "Mutiny on the Bounty."

"This Sporting Life," filmed in 1963 by **Lindsay Anderson**, is described as "a powerful movie about a Yorkshire coal miner who 'betters' himself by becoming a professional rugby player. The film is about success, love and disillusionment, and also server to illustrate what a grueling game rugby is."

Harris went on to star in "Red Desert," "Major Dundee," "The Heroes of Telemark," "The Bible", "Caprice" and "Camelot," where he played the role of King Arthur.

Then came "A Man Called Horse," the film that made Harris a sensation in the Philippines. Local viewers that showed were very impressed with the scene in the movie that showed Harris' character being tortured by being suspended in mid-air —by hooks that dug deep into his chest muscles!

Harris also played lead roles in "The Cassandra Crossing," "Gulliver's Travel", "Tarzan, the Ape Man", "Patriot Games", "Unforgiven," "Cry, the Beloved Country," and Smilla's Sense of Snow".

Towards the end of the 1990s, Harris stellar career was beginning to give way to rather undistinguished character roles. How wonderful, therefore, that some years before he passed away, he was given a chance to bring back his past glory when he was tapped to play the key role of the master wizard Dumbledore in the first two "Harry Potter" films—"The Sorcerer's Stone" and "The Chamber of Secrets."

Harris was supposed to start shooting for the thrid installment, "The Prisoner of Azkaban" early next year, but will now have to be replaced. Still, his performance as Dumbledore, the headmaster of the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and young Harry Potter's kindly protector, will be hard to match.

The veteran actor had a film career that began in 1959 and ended only with his death last week. His 43 years as a film actor was distinguished by Best Actor award at Cannes; and an Oscar nomination.

Among the performances that he's known for, Harris surpassed himself in "The Field" (1990). A review sums up his achievement in that film: "As an Irish farmer passionately protecting his threatened property, he gives a superb performance of lear-like statue to match his huge frame and now extremely grizzed face."

And, in "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Harris was singled out in reviews for his "textured characterization of regal Albus Dumbledore, Hogwarts' philosopher king." A nice exit line, that who will replace Harris as Dumbledore in the Harry Potter film series? This early, names up for considerartion include **Anthony Hopkins**, **Christopher Lloyd**, **Max von Sydow**, and **John Cleese**.

L.A. emergency gives Gary V new drummer

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ON NOV. 1 in Los Angeles, where **Gary Valenciano** would perform in the first stop of his US concert tour, the singer's drummer, **Tek Faustino**, had to be operated on the gall bladder. Tek's gall bladder ruptured so he had to be rushed to the hospital.

The production had to get a substitute drummer and guess who it was? **Mike Shapiro**, the husband of jazz artist **Kevyn Lettau**.

It only took one rehearsal and the whole production team, musicians and Gary himself were all excited working with Shapiro.

"What a drummer," said Gary's wife, **Angeli Pangilinan-Valenciano**, who sent a text message all the way from the West Coast.

Gary performed at the Grand Olympic Arena in L.A., the same venue where **Kuh Ledesma** and **Basil Valdez** had a successful concert two months ago.

On Nov 2, Gary also performed at the Berkley Community Theater in the Bay Area. On Nov. 8, he will be at the San Diego Convention Center.

Reunited

ACTOR **Aga Muhlach** is no stranger to director **Rory Quintos**, with whom he is working again in the romance-drama, "Kailangan Kita."

FIRST-TIME SCREEN PARTNERS. Aga Muhlach and Claudine Barretto in Rory Quintos' "Kailangan Kita."

Rory made her directorial debut in "Basta't Kasama Kita," which starred Aga with former Miss Universe **Dayanara Torres**. Rory again worked with Aga in the suspense-thriller "Sa Aking mga Kamay," which also starred **Christopher de Leon**.

For "Kailangan Kita," Rory capture the idyllic setting of the countryside by shooting the entire movie in the Bicol region.

The Mayon volcano setting is an integral part of the story in "Kailangan Kita," which pairs Aga for the first time with **Claudine Barretto**.

One scene shows Aga and Claudine riding a carabao-pulled cart along a field, with the picturesque Mayon volcano in the background.

"It's a perfect setting for a love story of this genre," says Rory.

"Kailangan Kita," with a beautiful theme song composed by **Ogie Alcasid**, is the story of a New York-based chef who returns home to visit the family of his girlfriend (played by model **Rissa Samson**) in Bicol. Unfortunately, the girl is in Europe for a pictorial, so Aga ends up befriending her younger sister, played by Claudine.

For realism, Aga and Claudine deliver some of their lines in Bicolano. In one scene, they even do a native Bicol dance, *Pontomena*.

"The film incorporates in the story the customs and traditions of the Bicolanos, not only their fondness for spicy foods and their pride in the Mayon volcano but also their distinct way of courtship and their marriage practices," Rory says.

Vina's dream

I WAS still out of the country the other Saturday when **Vina Morales** held a major concert at the Folk Arts Theater. But an avid Vina follower who made it a point to see the show told me how successful the concert was and

L.A./ A31

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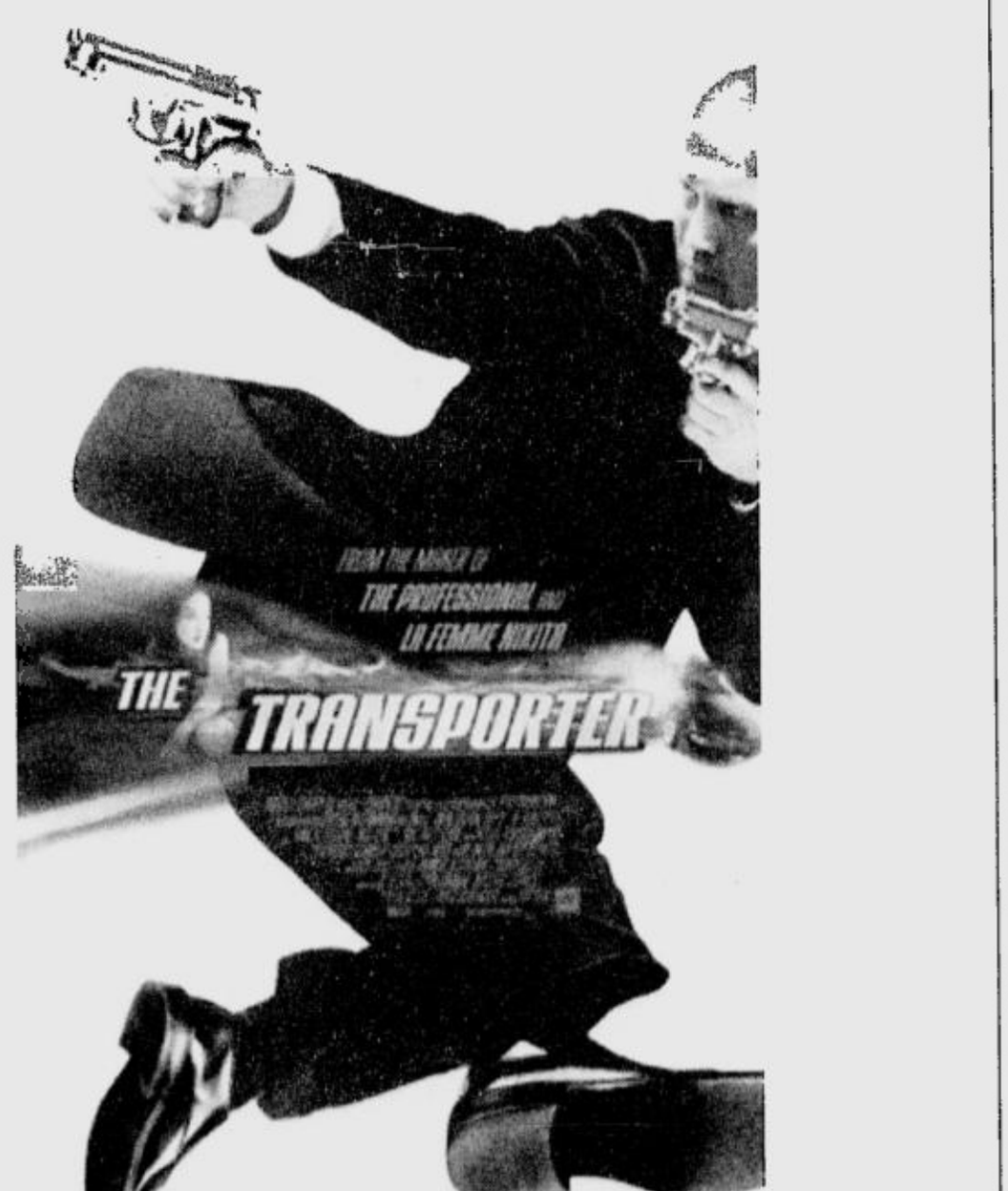

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Ali 4	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Ali 5	BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
Ali 6	NINE MORNING
Ali 7	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MIB / INSOMNIA

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR-2	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
B	HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-2	GHOST SHIP

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CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
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CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TING
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

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CINEMA 1	MR. DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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IF YOU WANT ACTION?

"The Transporter" has action. Buckets of action. This frantic new cross-cultural flick serves up a new formula for action movies: start with lots of action, then add more and better action, and then finish with nothing but action.

The movie is about Frank Martin (Statham), he has the nerves of harden steel and ruthless driving driving skills that make him a sought-after free agent in transporting illegal commerce. *Here are his rules:* (1) Never change the deal; (2) No names; and (3) Never look in the package. These self-imposed rules have served him well.

Frank's newest transport is no different from the ones he's done in the past. But when Frank stops along route, he notices his "package" is moving. Violating Rule Three. Frank looks inside the bag, finding its contents to be a woman.

Frank's devotion to his other rules - which make up his basic codeof survival - also quickly falls, and led him to a road leading to shocking secrets, deadly complications, and the last thing Frank ever expected to come to believe: that rules are made to be broken.

...he (Statham) could easily destroy the likes of Jean-Claude Van Damme and Steven Seagal or tough guys like Tom Cruise and Vin Diesel
-Danny Minton, KBTV, NBC

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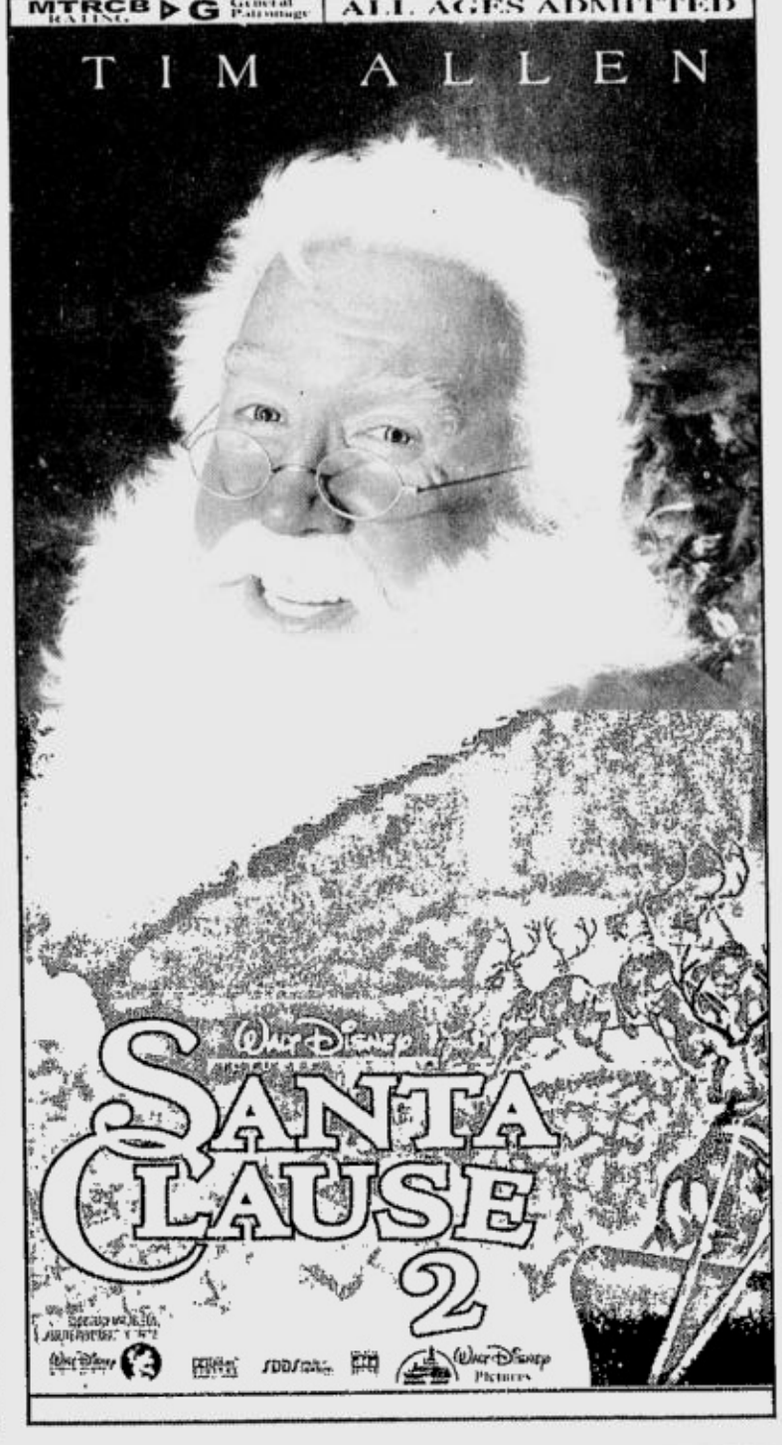

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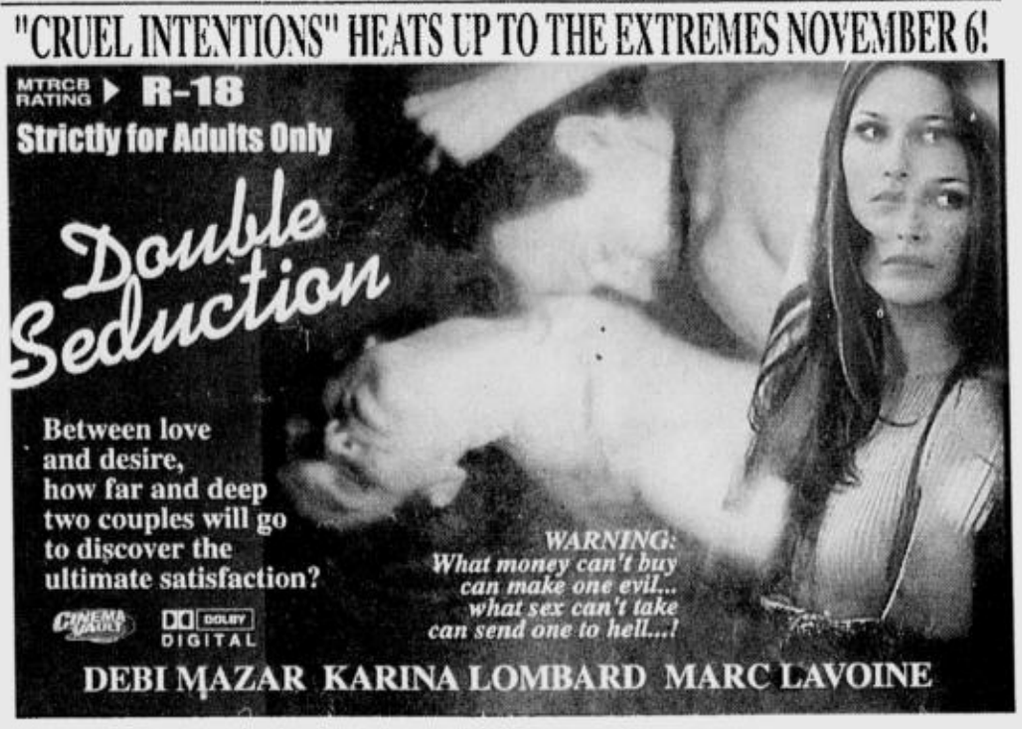

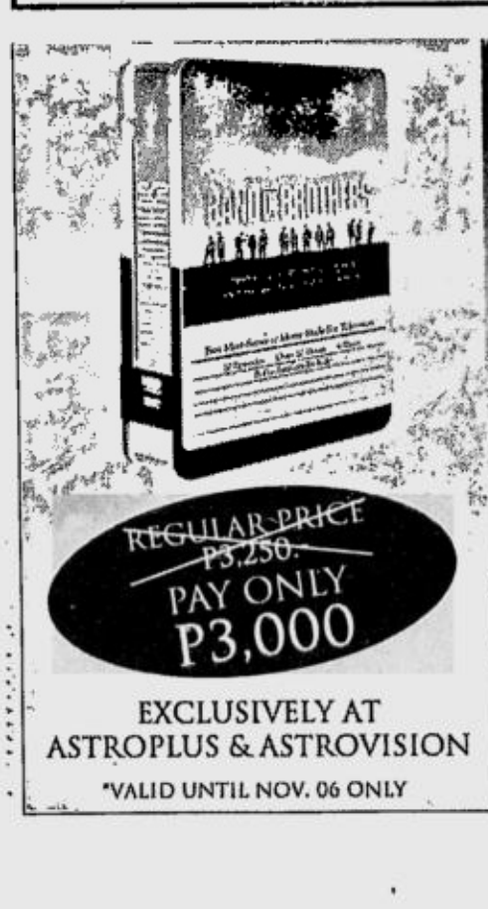

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THREE MEN AND A LADY. Vina Morales with her concert guests Gary Valenciano (right) and Martin Nievera (second from left), and talent manager Joji Dingcong (extreme left).

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ACOUSTIC. Vina displays her flair for guitar-playing during her Folk Arts Theater concert.

L.A. emergency...

From page A29

wouldn't stop blabbering about it. Vina filled up the venue and every number she did was well applauded, according to the fan.

It was a dream come true for Vina to do a major concert and do it successfully. It took her a long time to do it. Weeks before the show when I talked to her, she was even having jitters, uncertain that she could fill up the FAT. The success of the concert is an affirmation of Vina's popularity.

Thanks to the brilliant marketing and publicity strategy of Maxi-Media International, the production outfit which mounted "Vina . . . Revealed."

Vina is one of the few performers who can dance and sing at the same time, which delighted the concert audience.

Once she sauntered onstage with her opening salvo, "Get the Party Started," she was simply unstoppable, according to her avid fan. She did other dance hits like a '70s disco medley with Martin Nievera ("Disco Inferno," "If I Can Have You," "Hotstuff," "Far From Over"). She strutted with the Whiplash Dancers in "Can't Get You Out of My Head" and "Whenever, Whenever." She also did a naughty interpretation of "Kiss" with the Power Boys.

Another showstopper was her duet with Gary Valenciano, with whom she sang "Gusto Kita."

As expected, Vina also did her hits—"Sana ay Ikaw na Nga," "Muli," "Aangkin sa Puso Ko," "Pangako sa 'Yo."

She went acoustic and played the guitar in "Now That I Found You," "It's Too Late" and "Someday We'll Know."

Vina, radiant in a long, white gown, further flaunted her vocal prowess when she sang "Only Hope" and "On a Moment Like This" to close the show.

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.

The Action & Suspense begin NOV. 6!

Art Film GREENBELT 1
NOW SHOWING
Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white.
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"...a beautifully executed film that is remarkable on many, many levels." --- Paul Clinton, CNN
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Art Film GREENBELT 1
PIÑERO
"Piñero" tells the story of the explosive life of a Latino icon, the poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, whose urban poetry is recognized as a pre-cursor to rap and hip-hop. After doing time in hard-core Sing-Sing for petty thefts and drug dealing, Piñero's prison experiences developed into the 1974 Tony-nominated play Short Eyes. The resulting notoriety and fame was too much for the Latino bad-boy genius who retreated to the darker corners of New York City.
Starring: Benjamin Bratt, Talisa Soto, Mandy Patinkin, Rosita Moreno, Jaime Sanchez; Directed by: Leon Ichaso
"Vibrant and compelling." - Kevin Thomas, LOS ANGELES TIMES
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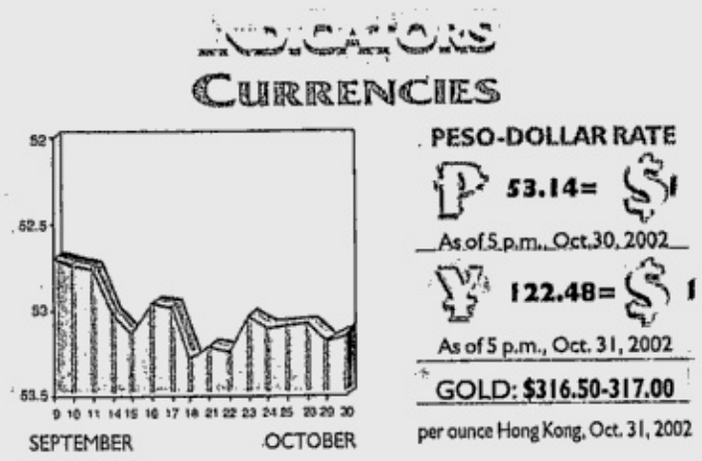

By Clarissa S. Batino

DIMMING prospects for local and global economies have prompted the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to rule out a cut in overnight rates even if the US Federal Reserve would ease its policy rates by half-a-percentage point in December.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura has even hinted that the overnight tiering system would be adjusted to implement a de facto increase in the central bank's policy rates.

"The only thing that a 50 basis points cut that the US Fed could do for us is give us more room to delay the monetary tightening. I am hoping we can delay it as far back as the second half of 2003," Buenaventura said.

The US Fed is scheduled to meet this week but is not expected to make adjustments at this point.

The Monetary Board kept overnight borrowing and lending rates at 7 percent and 9.25 percent during its policy meeting last week. The key BSP rates have been unchanged since March 15 when monetary authorities brought the overnight rates down to 10-year lows.

The central bank chief said that economists and analysts were now anticipating that the US Fed would cut short-term interest rates in December by 50 basis points and not 25 basis points as earlier expected.

The latest pronouncements from Buenaventura had all but ruled out a reduction in the overnight rates from now until 2003 and portends of tighter monetary policies through the overnight rates, the overnight tiering, and the banks' reserve requirement.

Aside from adjustments in the overnight borrowing and lending rates, the Monetary Board also effectively increases or reduces rates by putting in place a tiering system usually imposed on the overnight borrowing rate or the interest paid to voluntary bank deposits with the BSP.

"We could bring the lowest tiering back to 4 percent as an initial move," said Buenaventura, who chairs the Monetary Board.

Last March, the central bank tightened its policies on bank deposits to encourage lenders to extend credit aggressively. During

BANGKO/ B7

Stocks seen to rise

LOCAL stocks are seen to stay above the 1,000 level on follow-through bargain-hunting when the market reopens after a long holiday break today.

Benefiting from buying related to corporate window-dressing activities, the main-share Philippine Stock Exchange closed 16.44 points or 1.59 percent higher week-on-week to close at 1,048.53 on Friday, led by the technical rebound of blue chips PLDT, Petron, SM Prime Holdings, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., San Miguel, Philippine National Bank and ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp.

Other big gainers were Belle Corp., Megaworld, First Philippine Holdings, Union Bank and Benpres Holdings Corp.

"It won't be as bullish this week because the window-dressings are over, but I think we've seen the bottom," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said.

He said the stock market usually reached each year's lowest level in October and if the seasonal trends were to be followed this

STOCKS/ B6

Gov't to tighten rules on text-based games, promos

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is toughening up on the proliferation of text-based games and marketing ploys to protect the public from abuses by mobile phone operators and corporations.

Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the DTI was drawing up several amendments to the Consumer Act that would update the law to the series of technological changes since its enactment in 1992.

To quicken the reforms, Cristobal said the changes would be introduced through the Act's implementing rules and regulations that do not require congressional nod.

One of the key changes is the delineation of authority among the various state regulators. "There is a lot of gray area on what agency should regulate consumer services through wireless and web-based technologies because cellular phones and the Internet were not yet popular when Congress approved the Consumer Act," Cristobal said.

Cristobal said there have been mounting complaints on the various games and promotion gimmicks employed by mobile phone providers and corporations made through text or short messaging service (SMS) from consumers who were either fooled into joining these contests at a huge cost (each text message costs at least P10) or have questioned the results of the games.

Text games were the subject of a Congressional hearing in April where lawmakers questioned the legality of Smart's "Text to Millions" and Globe's "Txtciting" promo. The recent boom in text games has been propelled by the rapid growth of mobile phone

GOV'T/ B3

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Weak revenue collection perils release of WB loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT'S failure to meet its revenue targets this year is threatening the approval of a $200-million public finance strengthening loan from the World Bank that is tied specifically to revenue reforms.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said the government may have to renegotiate with the World Bank to adjust the terms of the proposed program loan so as not to delay its approval just because revenue collection this year had faltered.

The $200-million loan from World Bank and additional co-financing from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation are part of the low-interest facilities that the government had negotiated with multilateral creditors during a donors' meeting early this year.

Boncodin said the loan that was part of the government's programmed financing for 2003 was anchored on reforms in civil service, procurement and in revenues.

"The World Bank wants to see a reversal in the decline in tax effort from the previous years. We may have to renegotiate with the World Bank to soften the conditions in light of recent developments in revenue collection," the budget chief said.

Weak tax revenues were blamed for the government's P116.4-billion budget deficit as of September against an original full-year target of P130 billion and a revised target of 4-percent deficit-to-gross domestic product ratio.

The deficit in the nine-month period grew to 4.1 percent of GDP and this prompted Standard & Poor's to downgrade its credit rating outlook on the Philippines to negative from stable.

Boncodin said the government has not heard from the World Bank as to the progress of its loan application although it and JBIC have budgeted the program loan to the Philippines for 2003.

While anchored on specific reforms in public finance, the proceeds of the loan would be used to finance the government's estimated P142-billion deficit in 2003.

Once the reforms have been achieved and the loans dis-

WEAK/ B6

ATI GETS P600-M LOAN FROM HSBC
HSBC CEO Paul Lawrence (left) and Asian Terminals Inc. chair and president Richard Barclay sign documents on a P600-million medium-term loan facility for the port and logistics operator. Lawrence says the loan signing is the bank's affirmation of its confidence in ATI's continued success. ATI, which operates four international seaports and a logistics facility in the country, will use the proceeds of the Loan to finance capital expenditures

DBP raising $262.8-M for major infra projects

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE STATE-OWNED owned Development Bank of the Philippines has projected that it could mobilize $262.8 million in fresh development funds through a new program which seeks to boost the infrastructure for distribution of goods and services in the Philippines.

According to a study made by the DBP in line with its new scheme called "Sustainable Logistics Development Program (SLDP)," these investments could be realized over a five-year period, mobilizing contributions from the private sector, lenders and technical grants.

The SLDP seeks to provide financial assistance to boost the physical asset requirements of a sustainable distribution system inherent to maritime transport and related transport by land. It is geared toward the development of a progressive long-haul shipping to constitute the country's national backbone in the transport of bulk agricultural products and the development of a RORO (roll on-roll off) ferry network to link the islands to the growth centers of the country.

The DBP study said the SLDP could be able to mobilize private investments equivalent to 20 percent of the costs of the project.

On the other hand, the study said the financing facilities required to stimulate the market might amount to $210.23 million (P10.2 billion) and another P42 million worth of technical and training assistance funding.

The combined financial facilities and technical assistance funds which could be mobilized by the program on a per sector basis are: P3.36 billion for long-haul shipping; P5.39 billion for road-RORO ferry network; P2.1 billion for post-harvest facilities; P1.8 billion for shipyard, and P446 million for institutional support services.

The bank said the SLDP would give special preference to projects which have a broader development impact and wider multiplier effect in poverty alleviation, employment generation, capital formation both at the regional and national scale, creation of a wide range of small and medium enterprises within the sphere of the road-RORO ferry network program and environmental protection.

For its part, DBP said it would implement the program by appropriating developmental loans, lease-purchase financing, equity participation, technical assistance and financial management advisory to the identified infrastructure sectors.

Based on the DBP study, transport infrastructure facilities in the country have not been maintained as attempts to protect the poor by keeping public transport fares at uneconomically low levels have led to the physical deterioration of vehicle and vessel fleet and to a reduction in the service provided by the private sector.

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The 7-year itch

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

RICH bachelors who co-habit with their mistresses, be forewarned that the New Family Code now allows co-ownership of properties. Meaning, the roommate has a right to a 50-percent stake of the "conjugal" assets just like a legal wife.

This was what apparently was in the mind of investment banker Noel Escaler, 57, when he attempted to have his partner, painter Mariko Jacinto, sign a "release, waiver and quit-claim" to end their seven-year relationship.

(Escaler claims he co-habited with Jacinto only starting September 1998 and that Jacinto's marriage with another man was annulled only in March 2001. He further claims that his ex-lover contributed absolutely no "money, property or industry to any of the properties purchased by Mr. Escaler with inherited funds.")

When Jacinto, a slim, striking mestiza whose youthful looks betray her membership in Maryknoll high school class 77, refused to sign what was tantamount to her dismissal order, Escaler fired off a memo to the management of the Pacific Plaza Towers on Oct. 9 to prevent Jacinto from entering their penthouse love nest ever again.

"Despite repeated requests from the (Fort Bonifacio) police to at least allow Ms Jacinto to get some clothes and personal things, she was (still) refused entry," said a civil suit filed by Jacinto before the Pasig Regional Trial Court.

Cocktales will stop here, since there is still a remote possibility that the two ex-lovers would come to their senses, allow a reasonable settlement, and prevent their Mercedes Benz-driven lawyers from ruling their lives.

But if you want to know the blow-by-blow details, the persons to talk to are, pro-Jacinto, Nini Licaros (she gave shelter to her suddenly homeless friend), and those who witnessed Jacinto being prevented from even entering the condo lobby—Bettina Osmeña, Paul Aquino (aka the boyfriend of Korina Sanchez), Mary Grace Katigbak, and Carmina Pavia.

For the pro-Escaler account, Jun Valenton (he provided a contingent of bodyguards to Escaler), Escaler investment bank partner Rolando Gapud, Cynthia Picazo of Radiowealth Finance, and socialites Mayen Carmona and Jane Yu should be in the know.

We understand that the Escaler family, prior to the outbreak of hostilities, held a council, with no less than Jesuit Bishop Federico Escaler in attendance.

Noel's younger brother, the impresario Ernest, who is friendly to Jacinto, should be able to give a more dispassionate view of the affair. But then again, it may be a wrong time to ask Ernest, who is himself in the midst of a nasty falling-out and a possible court suit with his New York-based business partner, Jake Berman.

But that, as they say, is another story.

Unwise placement

THE WORMS are coming out of the woodwork.

In addition to selling the company Citation jet without a bidding, the Erap-era board of the sequestered Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. has placed "hundreds" of millions in the shaky Bankwise when it was still headed by an Erap classmate.

The new GMA-appointed board is now in a quandary on how to pull out the funds as Bankwise has now passed majority control to GMA personal publicist Dante Ang.

The Philcomsat funds were and apparently continues to be at the disposal of Philip Brodet, the sidekick of Philcomsat director Honorio "BabyBoy" Poblador and the brains behind the disastrous stock market foray into the now worthless Oriental Petroleum shares.

In addition to Poblador, the Erap-era Philcomsat board members include telecom consultant Pacifico Marcelo, Carmelo "Butch" Africa Jr., and Federico Agcaoili, the ex-president of the Philippine Bar Association.

Heard through the grapevine

FORMER DOTC Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco has written Malacañang and the Commission on Appointments she no longer wishes to be appointed Philippine representative to the United Nations.

With Lichauco's declination, former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu and ex-Sen. Francisco Tatad are now said to be the leading candidates for the choice posting.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Fate of futures mart still hangs

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission may wait for the decision of the courts before allowing the establishment of a financial futures exchange.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista told reporters that the Court of Appeals 11th Division, in a case involving Performance Foreign Exchange Corp., had ruled that the Bangko Sentral had jurisdiction over foreign currency futures trading.

As a result, the appellate court set aside the cease-and-desist orders issued by the SEC against Performance for the company's alleged unlicensed trading of commodity futures, specifically foreign exchange instruments.

"It is the BSP that has jurisdiction when it comes to foreign currency futures trading since the latter has jurisdiction over financial derivatives and as a matter of fact it is the one that issues license thereof," Remedios Salazar-Fernando, chair of the 11th division, said.

The SEC, which had wanted a financial futures exchange to be set up by the third quarter of next year, has filed a motion for reconsideration of the decision.

Gov't to tighten rules . . .

From page B1

subscribers in the Philippines and the Filipinos' reputation as the heaviest SMS users in the world.

Cristobal said that as a general rule, all marketing campaigns anchored on contests or raffles should obtain a DTI permit before implementation. "Right now, these marketing campaigns have no DTI permits. We will hold public hearings in tandem with the NTC to determine which areas are covered by which agency."

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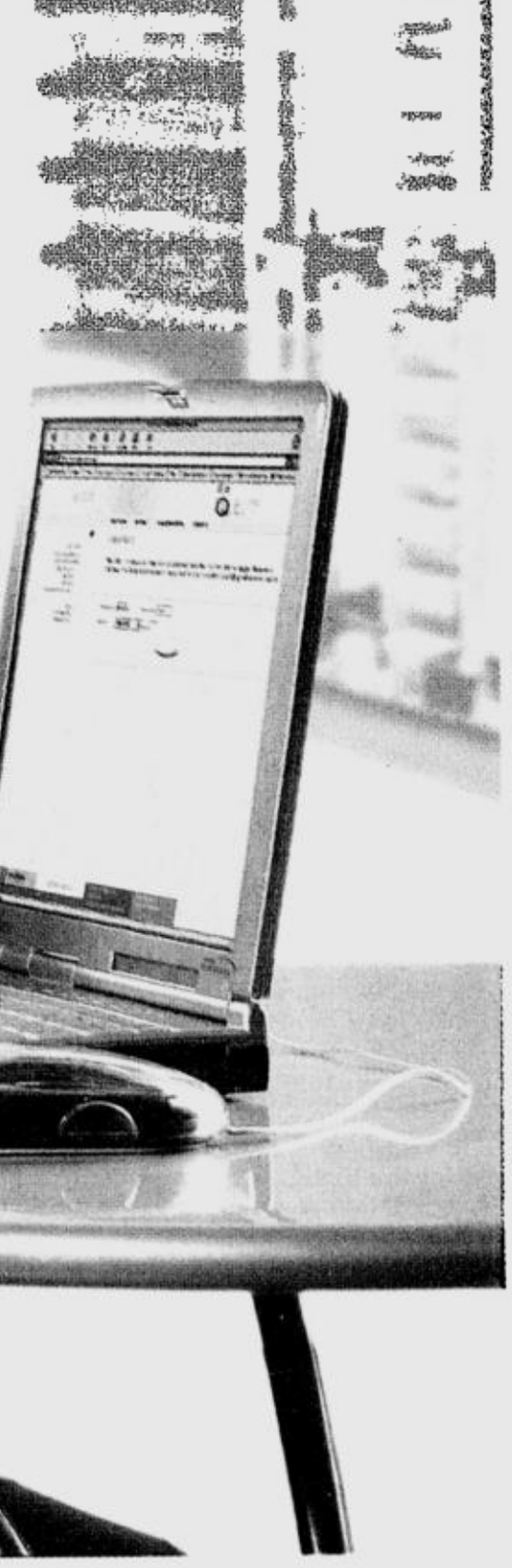

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Gov't seen breaching 2003 budget deficit target

By Clarissa S. Batino

THIS early, US investment bank Credit Suisse First Boston is predicting that the government will again incur next year a budget deficit higher than its current target of P180 billion.

"We continue to expect revenues to disappoint targets in 2003, leading to another budget deficit overshoot," Credit Suisse said in an Oct. 28 study.

"With this, we see ratings risk and would recommend remaining underweight on the Philippines," it added.

Credit Suisse was lead underwriter for the government's $750-million, 15-year global bond issue in January.

"We currently see little evidence of improving tax collection despite numerous initiatives by the Macapagal administration to improve enforcement, and 2003 begins the campaign season for the 2004 presidential elections," the bank said.

Credit Suisse said tax collections would receive very little push from improving industrial production this year.

Analysts have estimated that a bigger industrial output this year will translate to a 6-percent growth in tax collections next year.

"We expect revenue share to GDP (gross domestic product) to remain unchanged from this year at best and see a greater risk of a further fall in revenue share than of a rise," Credit Suisse said.

It stressed that improving industrial output would only have an impact on tax collections if the government "tackles the bigger problem of tax evasion and falling efficiency of tax collection."

"Efforts to improve collections to date give little cause for optimism," it said.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho stressed, however, that the Bureau of Internal Revenue was exerting efforts to arrest the government's declining tax revenues by imposing tighter monitoring of tax payments.

This strategy has yielded positive results, he said.

The BIR has snared more than 720 companies found understating their tax payments after declaring revenues that were P25 billion lower on a cumulative basis, he disclosed.

Camacho said of those found cheating on their taxes, 10 percent objected to settling their deficiencies with the BIR.

"We would not hesitate to close down these companies," he warned. "We are serious in implementing this and the 10 percent resisting could be shut down."

Congress seeks 'more realistic' fiscal, economic targets next year

CONGRESS is asking the government's economists to come up with "more realistic" fiscal and economic targets that will consider this year's widening budget deficit.

In an interview, Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said a number of lawmakers sought last week new economic simulations from the Development Budget Coordination Committee.

Boncodin disclosed that the DBCC would meet this week to discuss possible changes in its targets. It will specifically review its revenue and budget deficit assumptions, she said.

The DBCC expects the government's revenues next year to hit P640.7 billion against expenses of P782.8 billion, leading to a deficit of P142.1 billion.

As of September this year, the budget deficit has already grown to P166.4 billion against an original full-year target of P130 billion.

While aware of pressures for the government to adjust its target next year, Boncodin said she was keeping her assumptions unchanged.

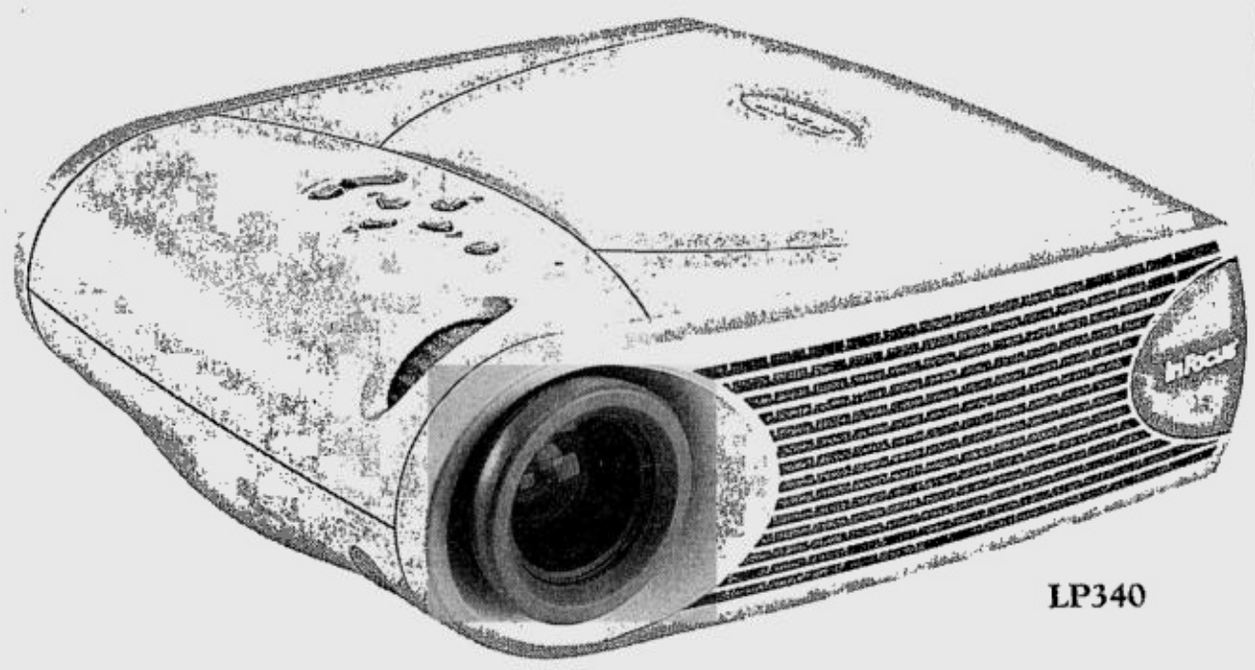
"I don't want to revise the targets this early because it might just allow us, especially on the revenue side, to be more complacent," she said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Infra growth pushed

BORACAY, Aklan—Business leaders here are urging the government to hasten its infrastructure projects for local producers to survive global competition.

In a resolution during the recent Visayas Area Business Conference, the Council of Visayan Chambers Inc. called on the government to speed up the implementation of the development of roll-on, roll-off facilities in various parts of the Visayas.

These facilities, according to the resolution, is needed to facilitate the "efficient flow of goods and services and to sustain the promotion of agro-tourism in the Visayas by implementing an integrated development program of seaports." *Nestor P. Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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Reduction of Capital Stock

Pursuant to the SEC Orders, VMC filed its application with the SEC for the amendment of its articles of incorporation for the decrease and increase of its capital stock, the certificates, for which, were issued by the SEC on 02 October 2002. In accordance with the approved Rehabilitation Plan, the authorized capital stock of VMC has been reduced initially from Two Billion Seven Hundred Million Pesos (₱2,700,000,000.00) divided into Two Hundred Seventy Million (270,000,000) shares with par value of Ten Pesos (₱10.00) per share to Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine (170,432,189) shares, with a par value of Two & 91/100 (₱ 2.91) per share.

The par value of the share of stock of VMC was then further reduced from Two & 91/100 Pesos (₱ 2.91) to One Peso (₱1.00) per share, and simultaneously, thereto, the subscribed capital stock of VMC was increased from One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine Pesos (₱170,432,189.00) divided into One Hundred Seventy Million Four Hundred Thirty Two Thousand One Hundred Eighty Nine (170,432,189) shares at One Peso (₱ 1.00) per share to Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy (495,957,670) shares at par value of One Pesos (₱1.00) per share through a stock split.

Thereafter, VMC's authorized capital stock was increased from Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Pesos (₱495,957,670.00) divided into Four Hundred Ninety Five Million Nine Hundred Fifty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Seventy (495,957,670) shares at a par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share to Two Billion Five Hundred Sixty Three Million Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eight Pesos (₱2,563,035,708.00) divided into Two Billion Five Hundred Sixty Three Million Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Eight (2,563,035,708) shares of common stock at the par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share.

Accordingly, your existing shares in VMC which have a par value of ₱10.00 per share will be cancelled and in lieu, thereof, you shall receive, upon surrender of your certificates of stock, such number of shares of VMC equivalent to your present shares multiplied by Two and 91/100 (2.91) shares at the par value of One Peso (₱1.00) per share as a consequence of the reductions in par value and the stock split.

Surrender of Old Stock Certificates

You are hereby granted until 02 December 2002 to surrender your old stock certificates. Should you have further questions on this matter, please direct your queries to any of the following:

For Manila and other areas:

MR. NILO A. FLORCRUZ or MS. DENIA D. AUSTRIA
VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.
9126 Sultana cor. Honradez Sts. Brgy. Olympia, Makati City, Philippines 1207
Tel No. (632) 8963425 / (632) 8990485 / (632) 8960381 Fax No. (632) 8954150

For Victorias and Panay area:

MS. PRISCILLA "CHONA" T. EBRO or MS. GINALEE C. YNAYAN
VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.
Executive Office , VICMICO Cmpd., Victorias City, Negros Occidental, Philippines 6119
Tel No. (034) 3993373 Fax No. (034) 3993378

Should you fail to do so within the given period, the Corporate Secretary shall automatically convert the shares of stock registered in your name as reflected in the Stock and Transfer Book of VMC as of 02 October 2002 and credit the resultant shares by virtue of the stock split in your name. Please be advised that VMC stock certificates bearing the old par values of its capital stock must first be surrendered and replaced by the new certificates prior to any transfer or sale of the shares covered thereby.

Please be further advised that on 02 September 2002 the SEC approved the quasi-reorganization of VMC pursuant to its Approved Rehabilitation Plan in order to reduce VMC's existing deficit of ₱7,718,960,481.00 as of 31 August 2001.

Kindly inform VMC of your **new address** to enable us to send future notices and communications to your correct address.

Please be guided accordingly.

NILO A. FLORCRUZ (Sgd.)
Corporate Secretary

Who's afraid of the nat'l ID? Me, that's who!

(Part 1)

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THOSE against the National ID proposal (me included) are up in arms again. Those in favor ask, "What's all the fuss?"

Back in 1997, Malacañang issued Administrative Order 308 titled "Adoption of a National Computerized Identification Reference System." The core of the AO said, "The Population Reference Number (PRN) generated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) shall serve as the common reference number to establish a linkage among concerned agencies (emphasis mine). The Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee (IACC) shall coordinate with the different Social Security and Services Agencies to establish the standards in the use of Biometrics Technology and in computer application designs in their respective systems."

Let's discuss the second sentence first. The SSS now uses biometrics, the latest in identification technology, in its member's ID. The card shows the member's picture and his fingerprint in code. If a member wants to make a loan, a scanner matches his warm fingerprint with the one encoded in the card. This speeds up and secures the transaction.

Now let's discuss the first sentence. The proposed linkage among concerned agencies did not scare me. It terrified me. This meant that IACC could access into my personal data at SSS, BIR, Foreign Affairs, National Statistics, Veterans Affairs, City Hall, and Education Department without my prior knowledge and consent.

Those in favor of the national ID will say, "So what?" Well, in each of these offices, I gave my personal data out of my own free will. The data can be used only for the purpose I gave it. For example, when I applied for SSS membership in 1959 and filed for my pension in 1991, I freely gave my personal data when I filled up the usual application forms. If SSS gives, or Malacañang takes, the data without my express and written consent, my constitutional right to privacy is violated.

The Supreme Court ruled that AO 308 was unconstitutional for two reasons. First, it intruded into the powers of Congress to make laws. But if Congress drafts a national ID law, it must contend with the second ground of unconstitutionality.

The Court also ruled that AO 308 violated a citizen's right to privacy. Justice Reynato S. Puno, writing for the majority, explained "how the tremendous capacity of the computer to gather and store data can be used to build a dossier on the unsuspecting citizen, thereby violating his constitutional right to privacy."

Justice Puno went on. "When the integrity of a fundamental right is at stake, this court will give the challenged law, administrative order, rule or regulation a stricter scrutiny. It will not do for the authorities to invoke the presumption of regularity in the performance of official duties. Nor is it enough for the authorities to prove that their act is not irrational, for a basic right can be diminished, if not defeated, even when the government does not act irrationally. They must satisfactorily show the presence of compelling state interests and that the law, rule or regulation is narrowly drawn to preclude abuses."

Justice Puno's best line is: The Court will not be true to its role as the ultimate guardian of the people's liberty if it would rather wait for the fire that would consume them.

In her separate and concurring opinion, Justice Flerida Ruth P. Romero warned: "So terrifying are the possibilities of a law such as Administrative Order No. 308 in making inroads into the private lives of citizens, a virtual Big Brother looking over their shoulders, that it must, without delay, be 'slain upon sight' before our society turns totalitarian with each of us, a mindless robot."

Justice Puno ends with a punch line: "We close with the statement that the right to privacy was not engraved in our Constitution for flattery." *(More next week)*

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Stories of paranormal experiences

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

A PAINTING of Bearbull receiving the Nobel Prize for limericks will be auctioned at the Coconut Palace next week. The British government is expected to bid aggressively and the minimum reserve price is P500. My mother-in-law will be flying in from the province on her broomstick. It is so much quicker than the bus and safer too. Seen outside a shoe factory in Marikina, "We save soles." Faust come, faust served. My wife is dressing up my daughter for her first school Halloween party and she is so busy, she doesn't know witch way to turn. There are many costumes to choose from, but you can Count on Dracula being there with his ghoul friend. I was offered a vampire outfit but I said "No fangs." What do you get when you set fire to a Hungarian vampire? Hungarian ghoul ash. I am sorry I spook.

I have been an inveterate card player since the age of 3 and on a trip to San Marino, a tiny village in the mountains of Northern Italy, I bought a pack of Tarot cards. I was so fascinated with them that I bought several books, which explained their relationship with the Cabala. I continued to collect different kinds, including the famous Alasteir Crowley THOTH cards, which took the artist 14 years to design and are a work of art.

As I was married to a Filipina, all her friends asked me to tell their fortunes at parties and I soon discovered that I had a natural gift. I never did it for money, nor did I take it seriously, but it always worked out as I had predicted. One day, her best friend, Flor, asked me to tell her fortune. She was 31, a schoolteacher in the Philippines, but working in London as a waitress. She had no boy friends and sent home money regularly each month. When I came to tell her fortune, all I could see was her death. I was quite shaken and asked her to reshuffle the cards but they came out in exactly the same positions. I pleaded a headache and promised to do it some other time.

A few weeks later, in the midst of our cold winter, she suffered total kidney failure. She was rushed to GUY's' Hospital, a teaching hospital, where she was seen by no less than the Queen's doctor. In England, medicine is free to everyone, British or immigrant, and so is education. She was in a critical condition and over the next three months, she received 50 pints of blood. I used to tease her, saying the she had so much British blood, she was no longer a Filipino. Anyway, she recovered and I was relieved that my prophecy had not been fulfilled.

A week later, she announced that she was going home for Christmas, as she had not seen her family for five years. I told her she was too weak, and her doctor confirmed this. But her mind was made up and she went on a three-week vacation. When she returned, the temperature in London was well below zero and it was snowing. Within a week, she caught a cold. It rapidly turned into pneumonia, and while an ambulance was called, she had cardiac arrest. The paramedics managed to get her heart beating, but 10 minutes had elapsed and she was brain dead. I asked them not to switch off the ventilator because I knew her parents would want her to be brought home for burial.

With the help of the Philippine Embassy, the hotel, and the Irish priest who ministered to all Filipinos, we were able to get three adjacent first class seats in PAL. Two were for an oxygen tent, the other for a Filipino nurse. She was taken to a hospital in Marikina, but after a week, the parents accepted her death and buried her in the cemetery. Years later, I visited her parents and they were pleased that I had respected their customs, and on All Souls Day we visited her grave. I stopped telling fortunes for 20 years, after that incident. Her death was not inevitable, if she had listened to the doctor and postponed her trip for a year, she would probably still be alive. I believe in free will, not predestination.

My second experience has a happier ending, but is baffling. I had booked a three-week tour of the Far East, visiting Osaka Expo 1970. We stayed a few days in Bangkok, a couple of days in Hong Kong, then off for a two-week tour of Kyoto, Hokkaido, Nara, Tokyo, and finally Osaka. I have flown over one million kilometers and I love flying, specially over cities illuminated at night, The landing in the old Hong Kong airport was always a thrilling sight, coming in low over the fishing boats.

Just before we were due to fly to Taiwan to drop off some mail, I had a terrible feeling, intense fear. It was irrational but I could not bring myself to go on the plane. I hid in the airport toilets for over three hours while the frantic tour director kept having me paged. He could not leave me stranded so the plane was delayed. In the meantime, another plane going to Taipei 10 minutes before us had taken off.

After three hours, the fear subsided and I returned sheepishly to a very angry tour director. I apologized profusely saying I had felt very ill. Eventually, we took off and I felt all right. As we approached Taipei, the sky became blacker and blacker until it seemed we were in outer space. I was sitting by the wing but could not see it. The captain warned us of turbulence as we were going to catch the edge of a typhoon. As the plane descended in total darkness, there was dead silence and even the stewardesses fastened their seatbelts and looked nervous.

At last, we saw the runway below and made a perfect landing amid pelting rain and gusty winds. Inside the airport, there was dead silence. No shopkeeper was trying to sell anything and the crew had disappeared. Eventually, I learned from one of the airport staff that the preceding aircraft had crashed, burst into flames and killed half the passengers. The pilot had tried unsuccessfully to land in the middle of the typhoon.

How did I sense the impending tragedy and what would have happened if I had not delayed the take-off? These questions have always left me wondering, but I have no answer. Predestination or freewill? *Send your comments to mr. bearbull@halloween.com.*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, October 30, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.75	18	18.75	118,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41.5	41.5	41	41	182,400
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26.5	27	60,800
First E-Bank Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	407,300
Philippine National Bank	27	28	27	28	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.5	14,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	16,600
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1	1	1	1	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.38	0.4	0.38	0.4	70,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1130	1130	1130	1130	150
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	910	910	450
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17.25	17	17.25	900
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	370,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	400	410	397.5	410	89,560
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.55	3.8	3.55	3.8	87,000
Pldt	0.215	0.215	0.2	0.2	1,280,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	228	230	226	230	91,080
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	8,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15	15	29,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	19.75	20.25	611,400
Petron Corp.	1.44	1.56	1.44	1.56	1,919,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.16	2.16	2.16	2.16	272,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.25	3.3	3.2	3.3	170,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	248,200
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	65,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	15,300
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.75	400,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57	57.5	57	57.5	157,600
San Miguel Corp. B	61	61.5	61	61.5	1,436,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.8	4.8	4.7	4.75	4,074,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	81,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	3,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.48	2.48	5,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	2,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.027	0.027	0.026	0.026	16,600,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.22	1.18	1.22	261,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	637,500
Ionics Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	74,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	630,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	730,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	500,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.54	161,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.51	0.56	0.51	0.56	180,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	58,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.34	0.39	0.34	0.39	2,200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.38	0.37	0.38	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17	17	17	249,900
Jollibee Warrants	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	12,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5	4.95	5	13,575,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	2,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	6,830,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	1.96	2.04	1.94	2.02	1,521,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.028	0.028	0.02	0.021	4,400,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	526,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.4	2,895,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	100,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	300,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	10,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	940,900	25,077,225.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	68,526,840	220,329,710.00
PRO	31,867,000	93,528,560.00
Mining	1,400,000	254,000.00
OIL	11,000,000	32,000.00
GRAND TOTALS :	113,736,740	339,221,495.00
	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	409.50	DOWN 0.69
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,451.00	UP 4.04
PRO	466.61	UP 3.35
Mining	1,121.54	UP 2.34
OIL	1.31	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	612.94	DOWN 14.39
Composite	1,048.53	UP 2.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 18; NO. OF DECLINES: 25; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 28; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 71; NO. OF TRADES: 1,349

CURRENCIES

Oct. 30, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.016673	1.000000	53.017000
Japan	Yen	0.008257	0.008122	0.430600
United Kingdom	Pound	1.583164	1.557200	82.558100
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130364	0.128226	6.798200
Switzerland	Franc	0.682423	0.671231	35.586700
Canada	Dollar	0.650338	0.639672	33.913500
Singapore	Dollar	0.574392	0.564972	29.953100
Australia	Dollar	0.565982	0.556700	29.514600
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.696890	2.652661	140.636100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271091	0.266645	14.136700
Brunei	Dollar	0.571486	0.562114	29.801600
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000111	0.000109	0.005800
Thailand	Baht	0.023485	0.023100	1.224700
UAE	Dirham	0.276812	0.272272	14.435000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.983600	52.147500
Argentina	Peso	0.284782	0.280112	14.850700
Brazil	Real	0.265589	0.261233	13.849800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134502	0.132296	7.013900
India	Rupee	0.021045	0.020700	1.097500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.267581	0.263193	13.953700
Mexico	New Peso	0.099840	0.098203	5.206400
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493794	0.485696	25.750100
Norway	Kroner	0.135248	0.133030	7.052900
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017305	0.017021	0.902400
South Africa	Rand	0.100981	0.099325	5.265900
Korea	Won	0.000835	0.000821	0.043500
Sweden	Kroner	0.110000	0.108196	5.736200
Syria	Pound	0.023001	0.022624	1.199500
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.029282	0.028802	1.527000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000742	0.000730	0.038700

Russian firms keen on RP oil supply, drilling projects

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy said Russian oil firms have expressed interest to supply crude to the Philippines and to explore for oil and gas in the country.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., who was part of a high-level mission to secure oil from Russian producers, said in a statement that Sakhalin Energy was willing to include the Philippines as a destination of its crude cargoes.

Sakhalin—a joint venture of the Royal Dutch/Shell group, Mitsui and Mitsubishi—is currently supplying high quality oil to Japan, Korea and Taiwan.

The DOE also quoted House Speaker Jose de Venecia, also part of the mission, that Yukos Oil Corp. was sending a team here to further discuss opportunities in oil trade.

Yukos, one of the biggest private and fully integrated petroleum companies in Russia, exports oil to Korea and China.

De Venecia also said he had invited the Russian oil firms to consider setting up storage facilities on Nonoc Island in Northern Mindanao, which they could use as a transit point in distributing their products in the Greater Asian region.

Perez also said two other firms—OAO Sibneft and OAO Rostneft—expressed interest in exploring for oil and gas in the Philippines.

The official said the five-day diplomacy meetings in Russia sought to tap major Russian oil producers to use the Philippines as a springboard for the expansion of their businesses in the Asian oil market.

Earlier, the government said it was sending a mission to Russia to secure emergency oil supply amid fears of war in the Middle East.

President Macapagal mobilized a mission to Russia even as the country enjoyed sufficient oil stocks, the DOE said.

It added that as of Oct. 25, the country's crude and product inventory could last up to 63 days.

PEREZ

"At present, the country relies heavily on the Middle East for its crude oil requirements," Perez said. "The President instructed us to diversify our sources of oil supply by seeking alternative markets."

He added that the government wanted to strengthen its ties with Russia given that it was emerging as a very important player in the global oil market.

Russia is the world's second-largest oil exporter, behind Saudi Arabia, and is gearing for expansion in its exports.

Stocks seen to rise

From page B1

year, then the market should start trending up for the rest of the year.

One proof on the bottoming out, Roxas said, would be that the market simply shrugged off the downgrading of Standard & Poor's outlook on the Philippines to "negative" from "stable."

"The impact of the downgrading was offset by window-dressing but if small window-dressing activities can offset a negative news as big as the ratings downgrade, then it means that the market is now very light. Slowly, it will start to move up toward the end of the year," Roxas said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank analyst Jonathan Ravelas agreed that the week's closing of the main index at 1,048.53 suggested that near-term support had emerged near the 1,000.00 level.

"However, this week's rise is still viewed as a technical rebound and may extend to 1,050-1,070 level. Only a break above the 1,250 would indicate a major reversal is at hand," Ravelas said.

BPI Securities said further releases of third-quarter corporate earnings would likely set the tone for the coming weeks.

"We still expect bargain hunting as share prices are still low. But investors will remain tentative as they will likely await for the corporate earnings reports before making their investment decisions. There are still some overhangs in the market, such as concerns on security, the budget deficit, depreciation of the peso and the possibility of war in Iraq," BPI Securities said.

The market will also monitor how interest rates will react to S&P's cut in outlook to negative by this week.

"The market needs a series of good news on domestic economic and corporate earnings growth to sustain investor interest," BPI Securities said.

Doris C. Dumlao

Weak revenue . . .

From page B2

bursed, the government said it would tap the World Bank for a similar facility on strengthening public finance.

The government is expecting to increase by 45.6 percent the project loans from multilateral agencies in 2003 to fast-track the completion of important infrastructure items that should help support a higher economic growth.

The government would avail itself next year of project loans worth P38.308 billion against P26.309 billion this year.

Program loans from foreign creditors are also projected to increase by 5.05 percent to P26.008 billion in 2003 from P24.756 billion this year.

Project loans in the coming year would comprise almost 21 percent of the gross foreign borrowings of the government while program loans would account for 14.23 percent of the total.

The rest of the borrowings amounting to about $2.3 billion would be financed by the government through commercial sources, mostly through bond issues in the United States, Europe, and Japan.

Sources from the finance department said the government would support an aggressive implementation of project loans to help pump-prime the economy next year.

Project and program loans are usually less expensive than commercial loans although once these re signed, the government has to shell out about 0.75 percent of the project cost in commitment fees every year.

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Alabang Country Club "A"	1,500,000	-
Baguio Country Club	690,000	-
Camp John Hay	245,000	Pls. Call
Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B*	110,000	100,000
Canyon Woods	190,000	Pls. Call
Canlubang Golf	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club	100,000	75,000
Celebrity Sports Club	Pls. Call	170,000
City Sports Club	830,000	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	190,000	-
Eagleridge "A"/"C"*	550,000*	-
Eastridge "B"	170,000	-
Evercrest	135,000	-
Fairways & Blue Waters C1	600,000	-
Fontana O/C"IA"*	70,000/140,000*/230,000**	-
Forest Hills "A"/C"	230,000/250,000*	*180,000
Manila Golf Ind./Corp.*	12,600,000*	-
Manila Polo	2,700,000	2,550,000
Makati Sports Club A/B*	Pls. Call	250,000
Manila Yacht Club	610,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	650,000/720,000*	-
Metropolitan Club	-	90,000
Mimosa Golf Ind./Corp.*	140,000	100,000/260,000*
Mt. Malarayat Ind./Corp.*	350,000/450,000*	-
Orchard Golf A/ Corp*	Pls. Call/Pls.Call*	Pls. Call
Phil. Columbian	65,000	Pls. Call
Puerto Azul "A"/"B"	100,000/150,000*	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club "A"	220,000	-
Riviera Golf "A"/"C"*	180,000/380,000*	110,000
Riviera Golf "B"	Pls. Call	130,000
Royale Tagaytay A/C*	90,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sherwoods "A"/"B"/"C"*	95,000/Pls. Call*	-
Sta. Elena Golf "A"/"B"	Pls. Call/Pls. Call*	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp"	290,000	-
Subic Golf	145,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	Pls. Call	-
Tagaytay Midlands	830,000	-
Valley Golf & CC	330,000	-
Valle Verde (Indiv.)	160,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	-	6,500,000

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,600,000
Baguio Country Club	Please Call	730,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	80,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Canlubang	450,000	550,000
Canyonwoods	-	180,000
Capitol Hills	-	110,000
Celebrity Sports Club	180,000	210,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	105,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	180,000	210,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	225,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	260,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	Please Call	12,550,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	Please Call
Manila Polo	2,600,000	Please Call
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	550,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	130,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	-	150,000
Mimosa (Individual)	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	35,000
Mt. Malarayat (Individual)	Please Call	330,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Punta Fuego	-	Please Call
Quezon City Sports Club	180,000	200,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	90,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,400,000	1,625,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,900,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	Please Call
Tagaytay Midlands	Please Call	800,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	280,000	Please Call
Wack-Wack Golf Club	Please Call	7,300,000

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RP stand on used auto imports gets big boost

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINES has swayed developed countries in the Asia Pacific Economic Conference to tighten up the export of their used vehicles and parts that usually go to developing countries such as those in Southeast Asia.

At the conclusion of the recent Apec Automotive Dialogue Steering Committee, Apec members agreed to develop a policy position on the international trade of used vehicles following a presentation by the Philippines on the evils of transboundary or transnational pollution arising from the influx of second-hand vehicle imports in developing countries.

The Apec members agreed to have a "meaningful discussion" on the effect of the use and disposal of motor vehicles as well as other issues related to used vehicles and parts. The Philippines and the United States have been assigned to draft a concept paper to be discussed during the next Apec meeting.

The Apec resolution was an offshoot of a speech of Board of Investments managing head Elmer C. Hernandez who said that the trade of used vehicles and their impact on the environment were a global concern that must be addressed by all nations. "The rapid pace of motorization in major cities is making vehicle emissions a serious problem," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said that while restrictions on used vehicle imports were normally left to the discretion of each country, most developing countries could not regulate this trade due to their low level of economic development.

Old vehicles from the US, Japan and Korea that fail to meet their government's emission standards usually find their way to the Asean countries such as the Philippines.

Hernandez said used auto imports were a major source of transnational pollution as they pollute not only the environment of the source country but also causes the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere in the importing country.

When the importing country do not have the means to regulate the trade, Hernandez said the source country of the used vehicles "should do something on its end to discourage such an activity."

"It is only then can we really state with a clear conscience that we are really doing something for the global environment," Hernandez said.

The wave of trade liberalization has opened the developing countries to cheap goods from developed countries but also to their junk goods such as used cars, appliances and clothes. In the Philippines, local manufacturers have urged the government to regulate the entry of used automobiles, appliances and apparel to prevent the country from becoming a dumping ground of rich countries.

In the automotive sector, assemblers have long petitioned the government to shut the door on used vehicle imports by strictly enforcing the rules that explicitly ban the importation of right hand drive vehicles and limit used imports through the *balikbayan* program and for special purpose vehicles. They claimed that the Philippines has been left behind by other Asean automotive industries whose sales have recovered from the Asian financial crisis because it has the most lenient policy on used vehicle imports in the region.

Metrobank eyes new tier-two bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE METROBANK Group has informed the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that it was considering floating another round of tier-two bonds to raise long-term funds.

"Metrobank said it was looking at tier-two again to support its expansion and improve its branch network," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura.

The central bank chief said he could not say how much in tier-two bonds Metrobank was considering this time since the BSP has yet to receive an official application from the bank.

Metrobank was the first to issue tier-two notes in December 2001, when it sold $100 million worth of five-year convertible debt notes to Singapore-based Dunmore Asset Ltd. The bank said it used the money to buy dollar-denominated sovereign bonds.

Buenaventura said that even if Metrobank would use the proceeds of a tier-two bond float to invest in other debt instruments, the issuance of convertible papers would still improve its capital adequacy ratio.

Equitable PCIBank said it would issue P10 billion worth of tier-two bonds while Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. was also considering selling types of debt papers.

The central bank has been encouraging local banks to tap tier-two capital in lieu of a straight equity investment to help improve their balance sheet.

A tier-two capital is also referred to as subordinated debt. It is an investment that is likened to a deposit as it earns a pre-determined yield.

Banks, said the central bank chief, needed fresh capital to recover from the damage inflicted by their huge non-performing loans.

The BSP was also pushing banks to merge and consolidate with an end in view of having fewer but stronger financial groups.

Bangko . . .

From page B1

that time, the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate was already below 5 percent and was much lower than the BSP's borrowing rate.

Since then, P5 billion worth of bank deposits to the BSP overnight facility would earn 7 percent but the next P5 billion would yield only 4 percent. Any placements with the BSP in excess of P10 billion would only earn one percent.

"If we can keep the rates down for a longer time, it would help the government in achieving better economic numbers," the central bank chief said.

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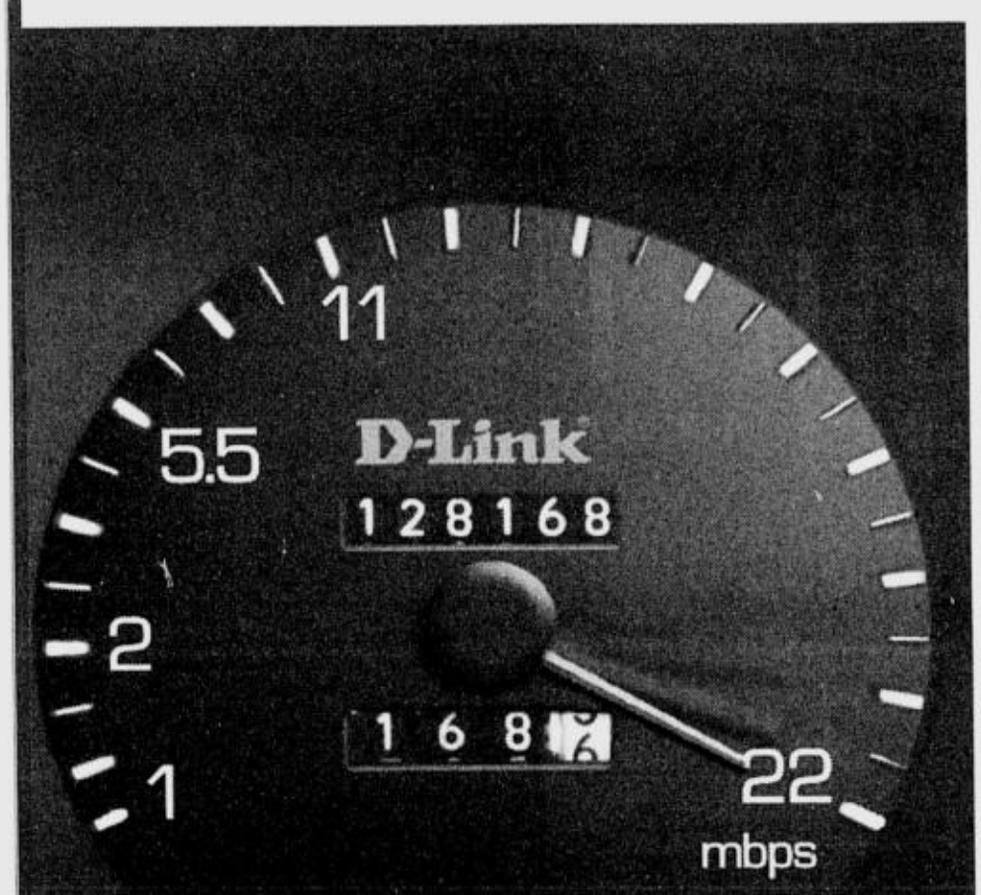

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PSE reviews policy on dormant companies to enhance roster

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange is reviewing its policy on "dormant" issuers to enhance its roster of listed companies.

In a news briefing, PSE president Ernest Leung disclosed that there were about 10 listed companies with a negative net worth.

The stock exchange, however, will first have to define what a dormant company is, Leung stressed.

"One year of loss should not be a dormant thing," Leung said.

He said some companies had been losing "for a long, long time," yet their shares continued to be traded.

"I'm not aware of companies listed where there are no transactions for a long time, so there is a question on how you define a dormant company," Leung said.

He said the dilemma was whether to define "dormancy" as simply the absence of market activity for a certain period of time or to look at the net worth of a company.

"It is not desirable to get negatives (in terms of net worth) in our exchange. But if somebody goes to the negative, I wouldn't immediately delist it," he said.

The stock exchange is reviewing its policy on dormant listing as part of an overall bid to attract investors, Leung said.

The stock exchange currently has three boards.

The first board is for companies with big capitalization, including the so-called blue chips. The second board is for startup companies with smaller capitalization but huge potentials, while the third board is for small and medium enterprises.

Handling dormancy issues is complicated because there are no black-and-white answers to business potentials, Leung stressed.

"Even if an entity has been dormant for a year, it is still possible that that somebody will be interested to come in to buy, so new shareholders can still do something," he said.

Asked about backdoor listings, Leung said these activities were sometimes useful as far as reactivating listed companies whose old business models might no longer be viable.

"I'm not encouraging it, but there are situations where it is possible that an inactive company can be activated by infusion by investors who probably know the business better," Leung said.

In its rule on additional listings, the PSE has imposed rigid safety nets to ensure that only legitimate "white knights" will be allowed to come in through backdoor listings. These rules have come under fire in the case of the Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. issue.

US-HK air deal to drain tourism money from RP

HONG KONG'S new air agreement with the United States will likely take away more tourism and trade dollars from the Philippines, according to aviation industry expert Victor Limlingan.

For a long time, Hong Kong has been the Philippines' main competitor as the Southeast Asian hub of trans-Pacific airlines.

Despite its superior airport facilities, Hong Kong has been limited by its tight air access to the United States.

On Oct. 19, however, Hong Kong signed an air pact that gave it a bigger access to the US market.

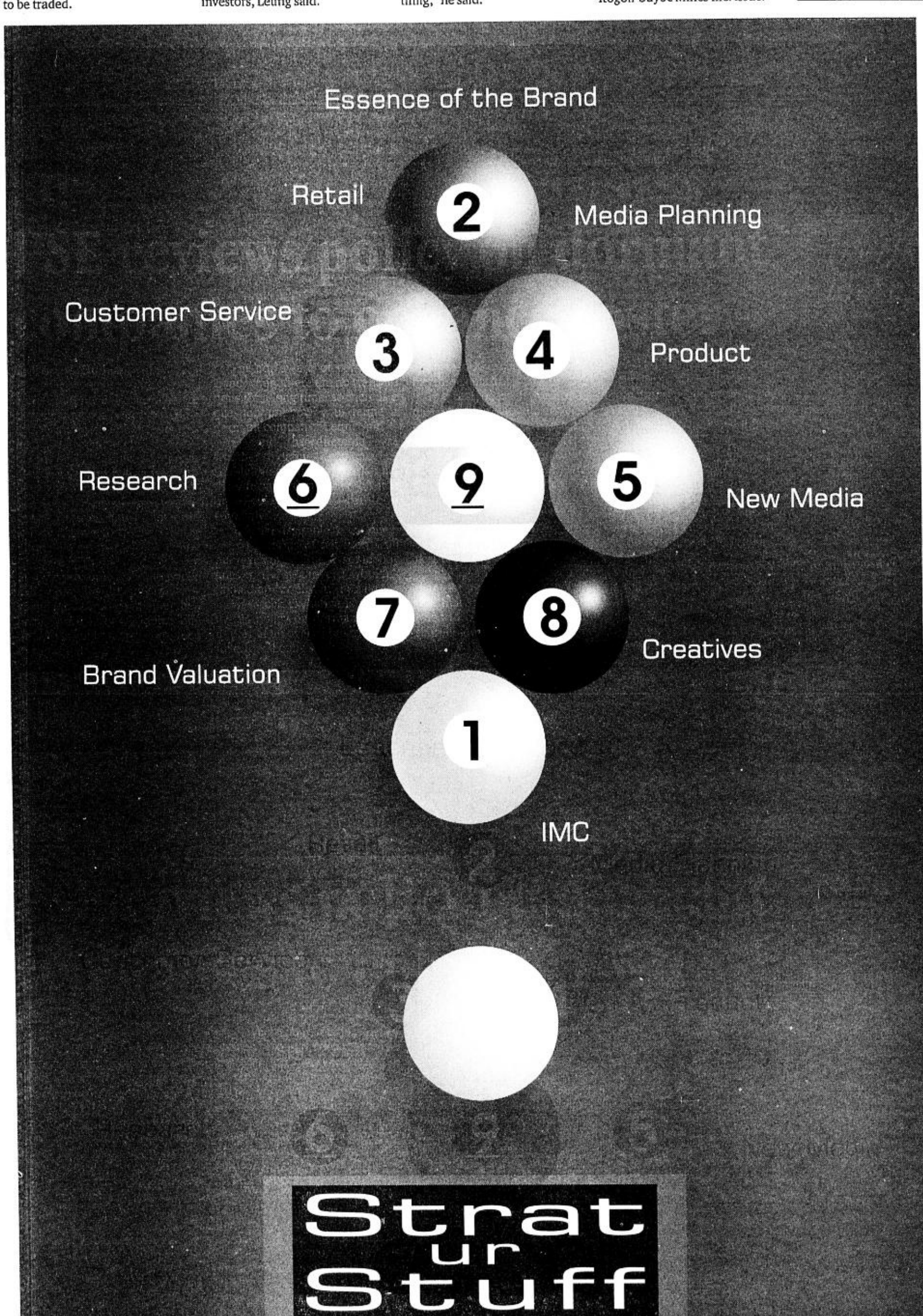
The agreement gave it an expanded passenger air access of 56 a week from 28 and cargo access to 64 from eight.

Limlingan said the Philippines' natural advantage over Hong Kong in terms of air access flew out the window with the new agreement.

Under Manila's existing air agreement with Washington, open skies will automatically take effect on Oct. 1 next year unless it is renegotiated.

The Philippine and US air panels were supposed to sit down to renegotiate a new air pact on Nov. 11 to 13, but the US panel pulled out of the talks because its budget to come here was not approved.

Abigail L. Ho



Napocor sees ₱70-B net loss next year

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has said its net loss next year will balloon to P70 billion if it is forced to implement an order to reduce its rates by an average 13 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

The order came from the Energy Regulatory Commission.

In an interview, acting Napocor president Roland Quilala said Napocor decided to withdraw its petition asking the Court of Appeals to review the ERC's order after it was assured that it would be allowed to submit new data to reinforce its case.

"We have agreed to withdraw the petition, with the guarantee that we can resubmit data for the ERC's consideration," Quilala said.

"This is a decision of the energy family. We want to resolve this issue among ourselves," he said.

Quilala said Napocor was also preparing to submit a new petition for a rate hike based on 2001 data.

The ERC ordered Napocor to cut its rates based on figures covering 2000.

The Electric Power Industry Reform Act required Napocor and other electricity firms to break down into separate components the charges that appeared on their customers' bills.

On June 26, the ERC decided that Napocor's unbundled rate should lead to a reduction of its rates by 7 centavos per kWh.

Napocor asked the ERC to reconsider its order, but the commission affirmed its decision on Sept. 6 and even ordered a further decrease of about 6 centavos in Napocor's rates.

Napocor reported last month that it suffered a net loss of about P17.5 billion in the first seven months of the year largely due to decreased sales and to the government's rate reduction schemes.

South Islands Gateway gets gov't attention

By Madonna T. Virola
Southern Luzon Bureau

CALAPAN, Mindoro—An ambitious project to provide an economical route from Luzon to the Visayas and Mindanao is now being given full attention by the national government, Oriental Mindoro provincial planning officer Cesar Tallada has said.

The project, called the "Philippines' South Islands Gateway," will make Oriental Mindoro an alternative route that will connect the Mimaropa and Calabarzon areas to the Visayas and Mindanao, Tallada said.

"With only about P3,000, excluding fuel, one can reach Mindanao in one day's time—assuming that the trips are regular. This is very economical, and you can bring the whole family in a van. The bonus is a scenic view of Oriental Mindoro," Tallada said.

He said the Malacañang Official Development Assistance Absorption Office suggested that the project be renamed the "President Diosdado Macapagal Agro Tourism Highway."

On May 9, Oriental Mindoro Governor Bartolome Marasigan Sr. issued an executive order creating "Task Force Gateway" to conduct and prepare a study on establishing the Oriental Mindoro-Visayas-Mindanao link.

Oriental Mindoro Vice Governor Thaddeus Venturanza chairs the task force.

The project "is expected to boost the province's thrust of being a food basket, establish Oriental Mindoro as a tourist destination and vastly improve trade links," Marasigan said

The project aims to accelerate development of the southern islands of the Philippines by opening up an alternative trade and tourism gateway through Oriental Mindoro.

"It is the intent of the provincial government of Oriental Mindoro to come up with an extensive study on the project," Venturanza said.

Economic pact to boost Japan confidence in RP

ROXAS

THE FORGING of a bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Japan is seen to boost the Japanese investors' confidence in the Philippines.

"Our two countries began this month a series of talks toward concluding our bilateral Economic Partnership Agreement," said Shoichi Kameyama, president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines in his letter to Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas II.

The proposed EPA with Japan is among the items expected to be discussed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi when the President visits Japan in December.

"The agreement, when concluded, will be a major drive toward a more solid basis for our mutual economic relations and we can see that your initiative and leadership as the secretary of trade and industry will accelerate confidence of the Japanese business in the Philippines," Kameyama said in his letter.

Roxas earlier said there was a strong clamor during the 34th Asean Economic Ministers meeting in Brunei last month to forge closer economic partnership between Asean and Japan.

Complementary

Roxas earlier noted that the relationship between the Asean countries and Japan was perceived to be complementary. The Philippines' agricultural products, for example, do not pose a direct threat to the agricultural sector of Japan.

In his letter, Kameyama also acknowledged the government's continued efforts at improving the overall business environment in the country.

"Our one year-after evaluation shows there are fewer cases of complaints over the handling of labor disputes," said Kameyama. "This is one example of the results that have been brought about by hard work of the Quick Response Team which you initiated," Kameyama added.

Government representatives led by Roxas held a dialogue with Japanese investors last Oct. 11 to thresh out issues affecting their operations. The dialogue was attended by representatives of the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Interior and Local Government, Labor and Employment, Public Works and Highways and the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

Improving environment

Roxas earlier announced that the DTI and DOLE agreed to form the Quick Response Team or QRT to visit factories at the first signs of a labor problem, with dialogues to be conducted with these companies regularly. Roxas noted that Japanese corporations were becoming more sensitive to the business environment in their investments destinations.

Japanese corporations have placed importance on political and social stability, low operating costs, quality of labor force and future potentials of the domestic markets.

"The conference we undertook on Oct. 11, 2002 for a comprehensive dialogue with representatives of the Philippine government was a symbolic culmination of consistent efforts toward result-oriented discussions that began in the middle of 2001," Kameyama said.

The chamber earlier distributed among its members a questionnaire seeking their opinions and concerns about what they perceived as impediments that hamper investments in this country.

Practical solutions

"We cannot deny that issues and problems which impede enhancement of business environment will continue to exist. However, we are confident that the dialogue in the pursuit of practical solutions will also continue," Kameyama added.

"These examples illustrate the degree of our confidence and trust in your leadership because you initiated the very framework of substantive dialogue through which our members feel they are being heard," Kameyama added.

"The Japanese businesses are here in the country not only for their own profit but also with the earnest desire for substantial contribution to expanding employment and transfer of technology. We believe in mutuality of benefit of our business operations that can also contribute to the Philippines' effort of nation-building, to the making of better community and to the higher level of individual life," Kameyama said.

Caltex sees further increases in local petroleum prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CALTEX Philippines Inc. said local oil prices might still go up this month if world prices would stay at present levels or increase further.

"Although we have seen international crude prices and the reference prices for diesel and gasoline soften in the last few days, domestic price increases are still very much behind the level of increase in world prices," Caltex officials said in a statement.

The officials noted that world reference prices for diesel moved up P4 per liter since January, local prices had gone up by only P2.10 per liter over the same period.

Caltex said it was importing a significant amount of the diesel it was selling.

International contract prices of liquefied petroleum gas, meanwhile, increased by at least P5 per kilogram since March. Local LPG prices went up only by about P3 per kilo.

No figures on gasoline price trends were given.

"The deteriorating foreign exchange rate, reaching a 14-month low in October, further exacerbates this problem," Caltex said. The peso closed at 53.14 to the dollar last Wednesday.

Caltex reiterated that it remained cognizant of the price sensitivity of the various markets and market segments it was serving and that it believed in small but more frequent price adjustments as opposed to large, infrequent ones.

"Over the long haul, we need to recover our costs to stay in business," the oil firm said.

Caltex statements differed from that of Petron Corp., which said last week that the latest round of price increases could mean that further changes in local prices might not be needed in November.

Starting Oct. 25, the oil firms increased the prices of gasoline and kerosene by 30 centavos per liter and that of diesel by 20 centavos per liter. The increase was the fourth consecutive since August and the second for October.

Industry sources said the rapid deterioration of the peso was a big factor in the continuing increase of local prices.

An oil executive said the local currency had lost about a peso to the dollar since end-September.

Insular Life's new investment plan

INSULAR Life recently launched its dollar-denominated endowment policy that provides attractive investment returns.

Robby J. Ventura, Insular Life vice president for business development, said "the Dollar Earner combines the benefits of life insurance protection, savings in the form of an endowment at the end of 10 years, and attractive investment yields. It is ideal for the country's dollar earners as well as those who want a secure alternative investment instrument that would provide attractive returns and protect them against currency fluctuations."

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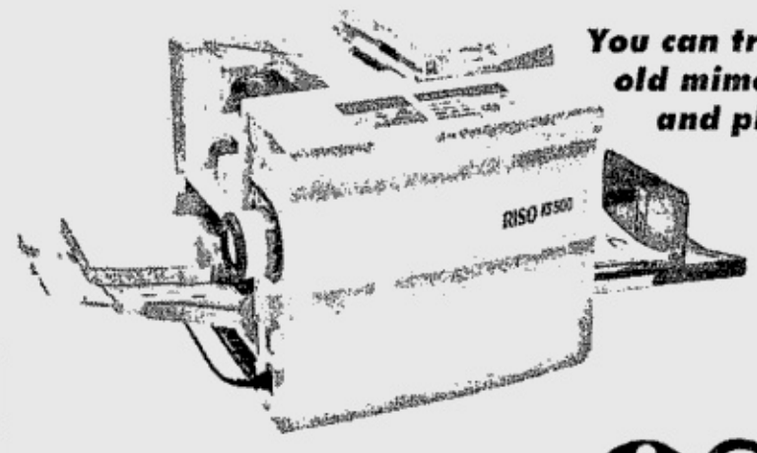

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US economic growth up but momentum waning

NEW jaguars are lined up ready for sale at Gaudin Jaguar Porsche dealership in Las Vegas on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2002. The dealership broke its sales record in August and nearly broke it again in September. The US economy, powered by strong auto sales, rebounded to a 3.1 percent annual growth rate in the summer as business investment, which had been the major no-show in the current recovery, turned up for the first time in two years. AP

WASHINGTON—US economic growth spurted ahead during the third quarter, powered by brisk consumer spending, the govern ment said on Thursday but analysts warned slowing car sales have already sapped much of the momentum.

Gross domestic product, which measures the total value of goods and services produced within US. borders, advanced at a 3.1 percent annual rate in the three months from July to September.

It was a rebound from the anemic 1.3 percent pace of the second quarter.

Analysts said the Commerce Department report, while showing the economy still was growing, highlighted the uneven pace of recovery from last year's recession and left a clear path for further cuts in U.S. interest rates as a stimulus.

The US Federal Reserve's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee meets Wednesday to consider interest-rate strategy but has not sent a clear signal about its intentions.

The central bank has kept rates steady so far in 2002 after cutting its federal funds rate to a four-decade low 1.75 percent in 11 stages last year.

Commerce acknowledged much of the third-quarter growth came from brisk spending on new cars and trucks, as automakers offered a variety of incentives, including free financing, to lure buyers into showrooms.

But sales slowed in October and may be harder to revive in coming months—a key reason analysts now see fourth-quarter GDP growth braking to a rate around 1 percent to 2 percent.

"The economy is losing steam," economist Sung Won Sohn of Wells Fargo Bank in Minneapolis said.

"The zero-percent financing is like antibiotics; the market needs a stronger and bigger fix to maintain the current level of sales." Sohn said he was looking for a further cut in U.S. interest rates as early as next week, considering that GDP likely will grow at no more than a 1 percent rate in the fourth quarter.

President Bush, speaking in Aberdeen, South Dakota, ahead of Tuesday's congressional elections, tried to pump up confidence in the economy's future while Democrats, seeking an edge in next week's voting, warned of weakness.

A top White House official, meanwhile, said on Thursday he shared many private sector economists' view that US fourth quarter gross domestic product growth will be "substantially slower" than the third quarter's 3.1 percent.

Glenn Hubbard, the chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said he was "reasonably confident" the main engine of US growth—consumer spending—would hold up and he was heartened by a recovery in some business investment.

"I would share the view of many, if not most, of the private sector forecasters that it would be substantially slower than what we saw in the third quarter," Hubbard told Reuters.

Federal Reserve approves changes in short-term lending policies

WASHINGTON—The US Federal Reserve on Thursday approved sweeping changes in the way it makes short-term loans to banks, lowering hurdles to borrowing but at the same time raising the cost of the loans.

The new rules, which go into effect on Jan. 9, 2003, are intended to reduce swings in the federal funds rate in times of market stress, such as the period after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The federal funds rate—the rate banks charge each other for overnight loans—is the central bank's primary tool for managing the economy, but officials stressed the changes were not a monetary-policy matter.

"The measure represents a technical change in the discount window policy only and does not represent any change at all in the overall stance of monetary policy," Federal Reserve Board Governor Edward Gramlich said.

Instead, the changes approved unanimously by the Fed's board were in part an effort to end the central bank's practice of making emergency loans to banks at subsidized, below-market rates.

At the same time, the plan seeks to ensure banks have ready access to funds when a financial disaster strikes—preventing the mad scrambles in the market that can send the federal funds rate shooting well above the target set by the Fed.

Under the revamp, banks in sound condition will be able to borrow from the central bank at a so-called primary rate that would initially be set one percentage point above the federal funds target, essentially capping the federal funds rate.

Afterward, the primary rate would be set by the Fed board using the same procedures that have been used to set the current below-market discount rate.

In addition, a so-called secondary rate would be set for banks that are less sound. That rate would initially be 1.5 percentage points above the federal funds target. *Reuters*

GE, Toshiba set up $50-M Thai plant

BANGKOK—US giant General Electric (GE) and Japan's Toshiba Corp announced plans on Friday to invest in a $50 million silicones plant in Thailand .

Construction of the plant would start this month and operations would begin by the first half of 2004, GE Toshiba Silicones, the joint venture company, said in a statement.

"We decided to put the finishing plant in Thailand because the facility that will supply this new plant with raw materials such as silane-monomers and siloxanes is in Thailand," Akihiko Kumagai, GE Toshiba president and chief executive, said.

The plant follows a $243 million investment in Thailand between GE Toshiba and Japanese chemicals and electrical material maker Shin-Etsu Chemical Co last year to build a plant to produce raw materials for silicone end products. *Reuters*

Jakarta deficit to widen

JAKARTA—The International Monetary Fund said on Friday it would make sense if Indonesia was to widen its 2003 budget deficit to 1.5-2.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) from 1.3 percent following the devastating Bali bombings.

The IMF, one of Indonesia's top creditors, said on Thursday the country's economic growth would also likely be more modest next year as a result of the blasts.

"(Finance Minister) Boediono has already announced he is looking into the budget deficit, maybe in the order of 1.5-2.0 pct of GDP, we think this is appropriate for these circumstances," David Nellor, IMF senior resident representative in Jakarta, told reporters.

This year's budget deficit is targeted at 2.4 percent of GDP.

The Fund has a $5 billion loan programme with Jakarta and is currently considering a fresh loan under that pact. *Reuters*

A PEDESTRIAN walks past an electronic board flashing share prices in downtown Tokyo Thursday, Oct. 31, 2002. Stocks closed morning trading lower with the upbeat sentiment on Wall Street overnight defeated by downbeat sentiment on the economic outlook in Tokyo. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average was down 97.48 points, or 1.11 percent, at 8,756.59 at the close of morning trading. AP

Takenaka to consult group on bank plan

TOKYO—Japanese Financial Services Minister Heizo Takenaka shrugged off criticism of his task force on bad loans on Friday and said he would continue to consult it on how to implement bank reform plans unveiled earlier this week.

Some of the harsher reform proposals initially suggested by private-sector members of the task force were watered down in the final plans after strong opposition from ruling-party politicians and banks, but Takenaka said the government will calmly keep the process moving.

"As we move to the implementation of the action plan, we may encounter new problems. So we will continue to ask for opinions from the team," he told a news conference.

After weeks of bitter political wrangling, the government on Wednesday laid out a new framework to tackle non-performing loans choking banks. Official estimates have put the bad loans at 52 trillion yen ($424.7 billion) but many analysts believe the figure is much higher.

The government plans to draw up a timetable later in November for introducing the reforms, and it will include the controversial issue of "deferred tax assets," Takenaka said.

"We said (in Wednesday's reform plans) that we will consider it, so we must show how we will consider it," he said.

The issue arises from an initial proposal by the Takenaka task force to limit the accounting practice by banks of using deferred tax assets—expected tax credits on provisions for loan write-offs—as part of their capital.

Because this accounts for some 40 percent of banks' core capital, a tight limit would likely lead to banks either asking the government for public fund injections or—as many politicians fear—slashing assets by recalling loans. *Reuters*

Exxon, Shell, Chevron results down

NEW YORK/LONDON—Exxon Mobil Corp., Royal Dutch/Shell Group and ChevronTexaco Corp., three of the world's largest oil companies, on Thursday reported lower results for a quarter when troubled economies crippled the business of refining and selling fuels.

All three companies have now seen income fall for every earnings period this year, reflecting leaner times for an industry that chalked up record results in 2000 and 2001. By all accounts, blame rests with a refining and marketing business that has been hurt by a slowdown in air travel, a poor economy and large stocks of jet fuel and other products.

At Shell, profit fell 17 percent to $2.24 billion, although those results were better than many had expected. Exxon Mobil, the largest public oil company in the world, also saw profit drop 17 percent to $2.64 billion.

But it was San Francisco's ChevronTexaco Corp. that was hit the hardest. The company reported a $904 million loss because of the dismal returns from refining coupled with a $1.5 billion charge for its ill-fated investment in power company Dynegy Inc.

In New York Stock Exchange trade, Exxon shares fell 1.8 percent to $33.46 and ChevronTexaco shares dropped 6.4 percent to $67.85 on a day the major stock indexes were down. In London, Shell's stock rose 4.5 percent.

Unlike Exxon Mobil and Shell, widely viewed as more conservative, ChevronTexaco years ago bet on the development of power trading by acquiring a 26.5-percent stake in Dynegy. *Reuters*

Boeing may cut work force

EVERETT, Washington—The Boeing Co. may cut employment in half on the 767 jet assembly line by next October, as the commercial jet manufacturer looks to shrink its work force beyond reductions made since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

A Boeing factory manager told workers Wednesday that based on his estimate of next year's 767 production, he expects employment on the line to drop from about 1,400 people to 700, company spokesperson Craig Martin said.

The twin-aisle jet is built at Boeing's Everett factory along with the 777 and 747 widebody planes.

But Martin said nothing has been decided and the company won't know for a few weeks what actions it will need to take as the worst downturn in the commercial airline industry continues. He added that workers taken off one line may be moved to another production line.

"Because there are shifts contemplated for the 767 line, it doesn't necessarily mean that all those people would end up being laid off," Martin said. "They might get picked up somewhere else."

Boeing announced last year that it would slash jet production by half and cut up to 30,000 jobs by the end of 2002, citing weak demand by airlines struggling from the terrorist attacks and the slow economy.

Since then, the Chicago-based aerospace company has laid off 25,640 people, eliminated many more jobs through attrition, and expects to end the year at its target of 30,000 cuts.

But with some airlines in bankruptcy, on the verge of bankruptcy or continuing to bleed billions of dollars in losses, Boeing earlier this month acknowledged that more job cuts are on the way. Boeing is projecting deliveries of 275-285 jets for 2003 and a similar range for 2004, a drop from this year's projected deliveries of 380 jets.

"The industry ain't getting any better, and airplane orders aren't picking up all that much," Martin said.

A union official for Boeing's largest union said it believes Boeing can avoid big layoffs. *AP*

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Jury indicts former Enron executive

HOUSTON—A federal grand jury on Thursday handed up a 78-count indictment accusing fired Enron executive Andrew Fastow of engaging in fraud, money laundering and other crimes to enrich himself and create the "illusion of business skill and success" at the ruined energy giant.

FASTOW

The indictment charges that Fastow, the former chief financial officer, allegedly masterminded secret partnerships at Enron Corp. that allowed him and others at Enron to manipulate the company's financial results and enrich themselves at Enron's expense.

The revelation of Fastow's off-the-books partnerships helped contribute to the Houston energy trading firm's multibillion-dollar collapse last year.

The indictment closely mirrored a criminal complaint filed earlier this month against Fastow, who surrendered and was subsequently hauled into court in handcuffs on Oct. 2.

Prosecutors had 30 days to secure an indictment.

The indictment added a new charge that Fastow, 40, allegedly obstructed justice by trying to persuade former protégé Michael Kopper, who is cooperating with prosecutors, to destroy computer records.

The order to Kopper, who pleaded guilty Aug. 21 and implicated his former boss in a series of fraud and kickback schemes, came in August and September 2001.

That period was around the time that former chief executive Officer Jeffrey Skilling unexpectedly resigned, leading investors to begin worrying that something was amiss at Enron.

Fastow's lead attorney John Keker gave notice that Fastow planned to take the case to trial.

"These charges are full of sound and fury, but the truth about Enron has yet to be told," Keker said in a statement.

"When the truth is told to a jury of 12 honest Americans, Andy Fastow will be set free." Fastow is due to be arraigned on Nov. 6 before a federal magistrate judge in Houston. He is the highest-ranking official to be charged in the US Justice Department's continuing investigation of Enron's spectacular collapse into bankruptcy late last year.

Chief prosecutor Andrew Weissman, speaking to reporters after securing the indictment, conceded that he had not "done the math" to calculate Fastow's potential prison exposure, but called it "significant." Under federal sentencing guidelines, Fastow would effectively face between 30 years and life in prison if convicted on all counts.

The indictment lays out a series of complex financial schemes, starting in early 1997, that defrauded Enron while allegedly allowing Fastow to enrich himself, his family and associates. *Reuters*

EU sues RJ Reynolds Tobacco in money laundering case

BRUSSELS—The European Union is accusing R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Holdings Inc. of involvement in money-laundering scams—some linked to the family of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein—that cheated the EU out of excise tax revenue on cigarettes.

In a suit filed late Wednesday in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the EU accused the maker of Winston and Camel of selling cigarettes to crime syndicates that were trying to launder the proceeds of illegal activities.

R.J. Reynolds firmly rebutted the charges.

"Any allegations that we were involved in, or aware of, money-laundering, conspiracy or any other illegal activities are completely absurd," the company said in a statement.

"We believe this suit should be dismissed, as were the other two EU cases filed in US court," the Winston-Salem, North Carolina-based company added.

The complaint cites the involvement of organized crime in Italy, Switzerland, the United States, Turkey, Cyprus and Montenegro, according to a source familiar with the case.

It names the elder son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Uday, as being involved in illicit tobacco trading linked to the company, according to the complaint.

"The purpose of this new claim is to obtain injunctive relief to stop the laundering of the proceeds of illegal activities and to seek compensation for the losses sustained," the European Commission said in a statement.

"The Commission is determined to win its fight against money-laundering, cigarette-smuggling and connected serious cross-border crimes," said Michaele Schreyer, EU budgets commissioner.

Change of tactics

The case marks a change of tactics in the EU's long-running battle with the tobacco giants, some of which it accuses of smuggling cigarettes into the bloc, costing its taxpayers an estimated 90 billion euros ($88.84 billion) a year.

It follows a failed attempt to sue R.J. Reynolds and two other cigarette makers, Philip Morris and Japan Tobacco, in the US courts last year.

A New York court threw out the smuggling suit on the grounds that a US court cannot enforce a foreign tax claim.

The EU is appealing against that decision, but in the meantime is pursuing the money-laundering charge as such activity is not related to tax.

The EU will claim its economies suffer due to the cost of increased crime. Although it had not set a claim amount, the damage amounted to "hundreds of millions of euros," an EU official said.

Both Japan Tobacco and Philip Morris declined comment. *Reuters*

Internet regulating body approves key changes

SHANGHAI, China—The group that oversees Web addresses has approved changes that end direct elections to its board of directors—a move that critics complained could make the group indifferent to ordinary users and hurt innovation.

The steps are part of an organizational overhaul meant to improve the efficiency of the nonprofit Internet Corp. for Assigned Names and Numbers (Icann), said chief executive Stuart Lynn.

The changes were approved Thursday by a 15-3 vote of the Icann board during a conference on Internet addresses being held this week in Shanghai.

"This will make Icann a much more efficient and effective organization that will get things done better and faster and be more plugged-in to the community than we are now," Lynn said at a press conference following a board meeting.

Lynn and others said the group's former method of electing five of the 18 board members over the Internet bogged Icann down in debates that held up its main work—making decisions that affect everything from how websites are named to how e-mail is sent.

Under the new system, the board is to be picked by a nominating committee and a trio of affiliated organizations representing groups of address holders. The changes are to take affect at an Icann conference in Amsterdam in December.

Critics said the revisions were aimed at getting rid of dissenting board members who say the group is out of touch with Internet users.

"Icann ... is not allowing public participation," said Karl Auerbach, a California consultant who is one of the five popularly elected board members. He voted against the changes.

"It is very much becoming a body that follows the interests of big business," Auerbach added. He said the group had become an aggressive protector of corporate copyrights on the Internet and was becoming irrelevant to ordinary users.

Icann has authority over domain names—the suffixes such as ".com" ad ".org" attached to Web addresses—through a 1998 agreement with the US government.

Other critics said the group's new bylaws fail to address the controversial question of how to work with regional registries that control the awarding of national suffixes such as ".uk" for Britain and ".jp' for Japan, as well as commercial domains such as ".biz."

Those registries want more autonomy and chafe at paying dues to Icann.

"There are too many holes (in the new bylaws) that are not appropriate for where we stand at this time and in our responsibility to the Internet," said Robert Blokzijl, an Icann board member and founder of the European Internet registry, RIPE.

Blokzijl joined Auerbach and board member Andy Mueller-Maguhn of Germany in voting against the changes.

Lynn defended the changes, saying Icann would work with registries to define relations better. But he said the registries weren't unified in their views on the matter.

"We want to welcome and bring to the table all that are interested in issues that concern Icann," Lynn said. *AP*

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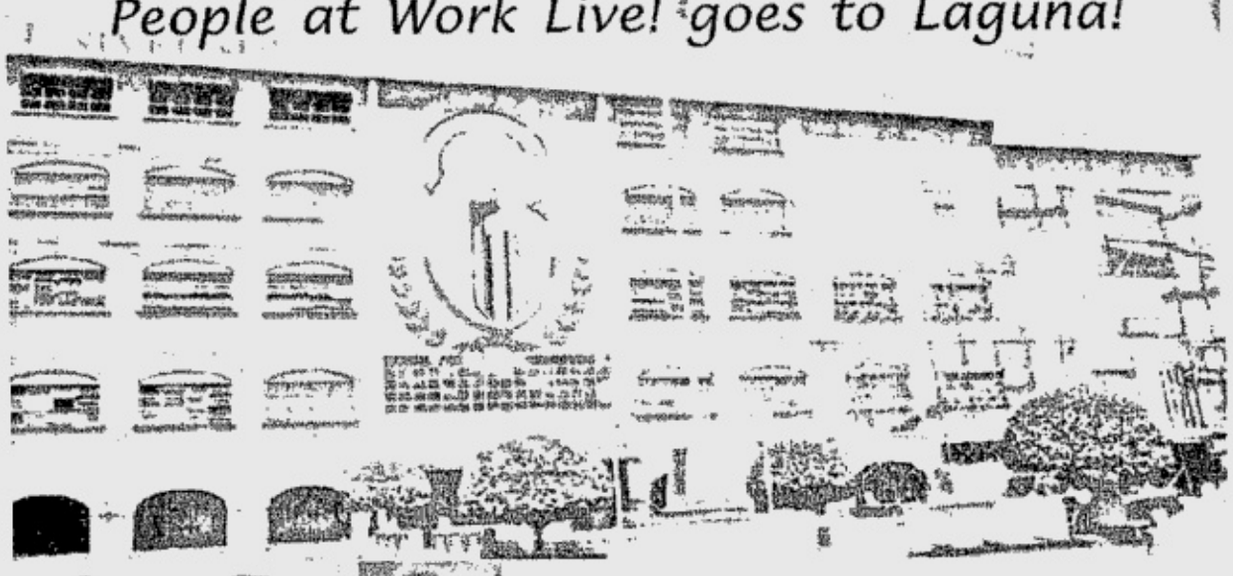

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ANTITRUST DISPUTE

Court OKs Microsoft settlement with US gov't

WASHINGTON—A federal judge handed Microsoft Corp. an enormous victory by endorsing nearly all of its antitrust settlement with the justice department and rejecting harsher penalties sought by nine states.

US District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly warned company founder Bill Gates and other Microsoft executives, however, that she would hold them individually responsible for complying with her instructions.

The nine dissenting states, joined by the District of Columbia, had argued that tougher sanctions were needed to restore competition in the computer industry. But the judge said penalties they sought would chiefly benefit the company's rivals.

Kollar-Kotelly made a few minor changes to the settlement that require acceptance by Microsoft and the justice department, which sued the software giant 4 1/2 years ago when Democrats held the White House and economic times were rosier.

Appeals by the dissenting states were considered likely. State officials said they were studying their options.

"We've got plenty of fight," Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller said. "We haven't lost it at all. We need to talk to our colleagues, analyze it more and make a decision."

The original trial judge in the case ordered the world's largest software company split in two, touching off two years of wrangling. Friday's result was far more favorable to Microsoft.

Gates said he was "personally committed" to abide by the agreement, which he called "a good compromise and good settlement." He said Microsoft was unlikely to challenge the decision.

"This settlement puts new responsibilities on Microsoft, and we accept them," Gates said, adding: "At this point, we're not seeing anything that would be cause for appeal, but we need to make a full assessment."

Attorney General John Ashcroft called the decision "a major victory for consumers and businesses."

Although the decision gives consumers more choices, Microsoft's competitors consider those choices meager.

GATES AFP

Sun Microsystems Inc., one of Microsoft's harshest critics, said the states should appeal.

AOL Time Warner general counsel Paul T. Cappuccio said the ruling made "a weak settlement stronger." He said Netscape, AOL Time Warner's Web browser subsidiary, would challenge Microsoft in a pending lawsuit "designed to promote competition and deter further anti-competitive behavior."

One executive whose company's Web browser competes with Microsoft's dominant Internet Explorer said the ruling seals a toothless settlement.

"There were no real remedies, no actual punishment. I'm not too surprised," said Jon F. Von Tetzchner of Opera Software.

The ruling allows Microsoft rivals more flexibility to offer competing software features on computers running Windows.

Microsoft has already enacted terms of the settlement, and now allows users of its latest Windows versions to replace some built-in features, such as instant-messaging or music players, with those from competitors.

While rejecting the states' arguments, the judge acknowledged that Microsoft has a "frustrating" tendency not to admit to its illegal corporate conduct.

"Let it not be said of Microsoft that 'a prince never lacks legitimate reasons to break his promise,' for the court will exercise its full panoply of powers to ensure that the letter and spirit of the remedial decree is carried out," the judge wrote, quoting Renaissance philosopher Niccolo Machiavelli.

Microsoft and the government had argued that the settlement they secretly crafted a year ago was sufficient. The agreement, which would last at least five years:

- Prevents Microsoft from participating in exclusive deals that could hurt competitors;
- Requires uniform contract terms for computer manufacturers;
- Allows manufacturers and customers to remove icons for some Microsoft features;
- Requires Microsoft to release some technical information so software developers can write programs for Windows that work as well as Microsoft's own products do.

Microsoft's extraordinary impact on everyday life is hard to understate: Its lucrative Windows and Office products are essential tools for businesses and government and an important foundation for the technology sector.

The company's market value of $287.6 billion exceeds the gross domestic product of at least 150 nations, including Saudi Arabia and Argentina. Its stock is among the most widely held by investors, specially among mutual funds and retirement accounts.

Microsoft Internet properties, including its Hotmail e-mail service, are among the world's most popular websites, drawing tens of millions of users each month. Increasingly, Microsoft has sought to push into new markets, such as videogame consoles, handheld and tablet computers and cellular phones. *AP*

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Japan seen courting Asean on trade deal

TOKYO—Japan will court Southeast Asian leaders with talk of free-trade agreements when they meet in Cambodia next week, although many observers say Tokyo should get its own house in order before inviting anyone in.

Tokyo is looking over its shoulder at economically booming China, which plans to sign a much-heralded agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) to establish a vast free-trade area.

In contrast, Japan is struggling to revitalize its economy, while Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's own proposed trade agreement with the region has yet to leave the starting gate.

Japan has signed one free-trade agreement (FTA), with Singapore, and the Philippines, South Korea, Thailand and Mexico have expressed interest.

But skeptics, noting Koizumi announced his trade proposal two months after China and Asean agreed last November to work for an FTA within 10 years, say Japan's plans stem largely from a desire not to be bested.

"Japan feels it has to get moving or be left behind," said political commentator Fumio Nishimura. "All the fuss about FTAs now is a definite attempt not to lose out to China."

Japan has repeatedly denied that its huge Asian neighbor is a competitor, saying the trade gains of one are gains for all.

"Whatever stimulates economic development and reform in this region, that will benefit us," Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi, a former trade official, told Reuters this week.

"We welcome the economic development of China." Contrasts are sharp. China's economy posted year-on-year growth of 8.1 percent in the July-September quarter, while Japan had 2.6-percent growth, its first in five quarters, in the three months to June. Japan's economy shrank 1.3 percent in 2001/02.

Although Japan proudly points to the Singapore FTA, a protectionist farm lobby will make more agreements difficult.

Even Singapore, which has no major agricultural exports, had to exclude its modest goldfish exports from the pact in response to Japanese pressure.

So while Foreign Ministry officials say the topic of an FTA with Asean is high on the agenda, details remain vague.

No timeline has been set either, although a government advisory panel has urged Japan to aim for a framework by 2006.

Takashi Shiraishi, a Kyoto University professor who headed the panel, said achieving an FTA would best be done through bilateral agreements with leading regional trade partners first.

"The process has already begun with the Philippines and Thailand, and Indonesia and Malaysia should start soon," he said. *Reuters*

Singapore manufacturers see weaker outlook–survey

SINGAPORE—Singapore manufacturers expect a weaker business outlook in the six months to March 2003 due to global economic uncertainties and the rising Middle East tension, a government survey showed on Friday.

A weighted 22 percent of the industrialists expect a deteriorating business outlook, up from 15 percent a quarter ago, the Economic Development Board (EDB) said in a statement.

Those expecting business conditions to improve fell to 10 percent from 25 percent in the third-quarter survey.

Overall, a net weighted balance of 12 percent expected business prospects to worsen, a sharp contrast to the 10 percent expecting an improvement a quarter ago.

"The electronics cluster's outlook is expected to turn weaker in the next six months on the back of both sluggish market conditions and a seasonally less active first quarter," the EDB said.

The survey comes on the heels of the latest Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) report for October which also showed the city state's vital electronics sector is contracting.

Singapore said on Thursday that its unemployment rate rose to its highest level since 1986 in September, and could keep rising as the economy teeters on the brink of another recession and factories shift to cheaper locations around Asia.

The export-driven city state officially emerged from its worst recession since 1964 in the second quarter, but weak third-quarter data threatens to sink the economy back into the doldrums.

The EDB's business expectations survey for the fourth quarter, conducted between September and October, sought feedback from 404 manufacturers and received responses from 93 percent. *Reuters*

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3:30 - 4:30pm Lead Inspection System by: Benchmark Systems

NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)
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1:00 - 2:00pm ESD Market Trends by: ESD Advanced Technology Corp.
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3:30 - 4:30pm Surge Suppression Transformers by: Cebu Sarah Inc.- Digital Network Inc.

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1:00 - 2:00pm Company Profile and Product Introduction by:Nupon Technology
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NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)
2:15 - 3:15pm Integrated Solid/ Hazardous Waste Management by: PAE Environmental Company
3:30 - 4:30pm Advances in ESD Control, Process Solutions and Cleaning Systems by: Hugle Technologies

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People, Events & Products

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

Some secrets of sauna

UNTIL a few years ago, genuine saunas from Finland were found only in exclusive sports clubs. But now we are seeing an explosion of new saunas in health and beauty spas throughout the country. And more men and women are using sauna treatment as part of their weekly beauty and fitness routine.

Why is sauna becoming so popular? Are Filipinos following the example of international celebrities like Claudia Schiffer and Tom Cruise?

Filipinos know relatively little about saunas, except maybe that they can clean the skin. But a good shower can also do that. So what's the secret of saunas?

Robert McKenzie, who operates the CHI-Med Asia Health Clinic in Makati, which has one of the best medical-grade saunas in the Philippines, says sauna rejuvenates the skin from the inside out.

After several treatments with sauna, bathers would notice that their skin gets smoother and more pliant. This is a typical and lasting benefit of sauna therapy.

In the United States, saunas are used in rejuvenation and cleansing by some of the foremost environmental medicine clinics such as the Edelson Clinic of Atlanta, Georgia, and the Environmental Health Center of Dallas, Texas. These clinics say the higher-than-normal temperatures in sauna therapy help flush toxic substances out of our bloodstream and lymphatic system, and can even extract the toxins that become lodged deeply in fatty tissue. Called "heat depuration therapy," it makes the patient start to feel and look healthier.

Lasse Viinikka MD, chair of the Finnish Sauna Society, notes that sauna therapy greatly increases circulation in the skin. The bloodstream carries the rebuilding forces of nutrients and plays a crucial role in health maintenance. The dilation of the capillaries in the skin during sauna therapy enables the bloodstream to carry much larger amounts of nutrients to the skin.

"Normally, the blood flow through the skin is 5 to 10 percent of the cardiac output, but this can increase to 50 to 70 percent in the sauna," explains Viinikka.

If you are serious about sauna, you can join a good health club; better, buy a sauna for home use.

Not all saunas are created equal. According to Mckenzie, you have to look at the design and operation of the sauna. Three concerns in good sauna design are ventilation, mold and the toxicity of the building materials.

The sauna should be well-ventilated and well-oxygenated, Mckenzie says. When users are uncomfortable in the sauna, they are probably suffering from a lack of oxygen in the room. Only special designers know how to design a sauna that maintains the heat while still letting in sufficient air. Poorly designed saunas are oxygen-starved.

The second concern is the growth of mold. The sauna should be well-designed so that there are no places where mold can grow. And the third concern is the use of toxic materials in construction.

"Once you have chosen the right sauna, you must be knowledgeable and careful about its operation," says Mckenzie. Use only nontoxic cleansing agents. Some cleaners are carcinogenic and you don't want to inhale their vapors during a sauna session. Use only purified (demineralized) water to douse the hot stones in the sauna room.

Mckenzie says his health clinic studied the designs of saunas for more than two months before deciding to buy one.

"We were intending to save a little money by modifying a design we had downloaded from the Internet and then constructing it using the local materials," he recalls. "But the more research that we do, the more obvious it became that this was a job for experts."

"Our saunas at CHI-Med is a genuine Harvia model imported from Finland and assembled in Manila by sauna specialists at Finlevi."

"The only real surprise we've had while operating our sauna is that electricity costs have been about half of what we expected," he adds. "We were really concerned that we were going to burn up a lot of electricity, since we are using a 7KW heater. But we found out that a properly designed sauna can be operated very economically."

Finlevi is the largest distributor of saunas in the Philippines. Finlevi's Vannu Virtanen, a native of Finland, says the most interesting trend now is the popularity of saunas for home use. Several models are small enough for a house or even an apartment, he says.

"The sauna revolution is just beginning in the Philippines," says Virtanen. "In Finland, a country of 5 million people, there are 1.5 million saunas. We don't expect that sort of ratio here in the Philippines, but as more and more people are able to try the best Finnish saunas in exclusive clubs, they become interested in having one in their own homes.

"Sauna is going to become an important part of modern lifestyle," he says.

SHELL SIGNS UP GATORADE

Alternative Beverages Company Inc. (ABC), exclusive manufacturer and distributor of Gatorade sports drink in the Philippines, is sponsoring the rehydration requirements of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.'s PBA Turbo Chargers for the next two years. The agreement was sealed between ABC president and CEO Alfred Ramon M. Herrera (2nd from right) and Shell general manager for external affairs and PBA governor Roberto S. Kanapi (center). Also shown during the signing are ABC vice president for marketing and sales Edwin H. Monzon (right), Shell PBA assistant team manager Victoria C. Araneta (2nd from left), and Shell PBA administrative assistant Rosalyn Bade (left).

UP SCHOLARSHIPS HONOR UY, BARTOLOME

Campaigns and Grey, one of the leading advertising companies in the Philippines, recently formalized an agreement with the University of the Philippines, Diliman creating two student grants at the College of Fine Arts to honor the memory of two of its late top management officers, Butch Uy (vice president–executive creative director) and Rina Bartolome (vice president for media). The signing was held with chancellor Emerlinda Roman (5th from left) representing UP and Gi Gatchalian (4th from left) president, representing Campaigns and Grey. Also at the signing were (from left) James Reyes, Chuck Nitorreda and Chuchi Quizon from Campaigns and Grey and professor Tessa Jasmines, vice chancellor for students affairs, Dr. Bella Villanueva, both from UP. Inquiries and applications for the scholarships may be directed to the UP Office of Scholarships and Student Services at 928-7228.

EASTERN TELECOMS IN CEBU TRADE FAIR

Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. (Eastern Telecom), the premier provider of Internet access to the major ISPs and top corporations in the country, recently participated in Communications and Automation Cebu 2002, a trade fair exhibit showcasing products and services promoting data-based, voice and Internet communications solutions held at the Cebu International Convention Center, Waterfront Hotel. The exhibit was an excellent venue for Eastern Telecom to introduce its new products and services in order to reassert itself as a major player in the fast-growing telecom industry and carry out its vision to be a communications services company that will rally people through technology challenges for world prosperity. Shown during the contract signing for Communications & Automation Cebu 2002 were (from left) Jing Lagandaon, deputy managing director of IIR Exhibitions Philippines Inc., Virgil Pedro, VP for product management, marketing channels of Eastern Telecom and Margarita Duya, marketing communications manager of Eastern Telecom.

Bits & Clips

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KITARO, the fastest growing sushi-to-go chain, is now accepting your MasterCard, Visa and JCB Cards. Customers can now enjoy their sushi, sashimi, ramen, party tray and other Kitaro delights through cashless purchase by simply charging them. Kitaro's branches are located in Better Living, Bicutan (776-5511), Katipunan Avenue, White Plains (912-6626), SM City, Manila (527-5738), Sto. Domingo, Quezon Avenue (732-9635), Shaw Boulevard (721-4958), Vito Cruz (899-8917), Robinsons Cainta (681-7351), Araneta Center, Cubao (421-2705), Araneta Avenue (714-1219), Robinsons Fairview (930-6165), The Podium (633-8161), Shangri-La (633-5547), Robinsons Pampanga and SM Pampanga (045-9616971).

Citem's industry search

THE CENTER for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem) will hold Industry Search 2002—the country's biggest subcontractor's fair for industrial goods and services—from Nov. 6 to 8 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Industry Search will showcase the abilities of the country's contract manufacturers and subcontractors in the areas of electronics, automotive parts, and industrial machinery. Now on its 5th year, the event provides the perfect opportunity for traders to expand their business network of prospective suppliers and joint venture partners. Interested parties can call Citem's industrial goods and services division at 831-1268, 831-2201 locals 257/227, fax 832-3965 and 834-0177. Industry Search will share the spotlight with Philtronics 2002 (Philippine International Electronics Manufacturing Technology Exhibition and Conference) organized by IIR Exhibition Philippines.

Visit Butuan '03

THE BUTUAN City Tourism Office and the Visit Butuan Commission are currently in high gear as they start to set in motion the promotional materials for the Visit Butuan 2003 ad campaign. This yearlong program is an invitation to local and foreign tourists to come, visit and experience a slice of historic Butuan. A 10-minute video documentary shot in the posh Almont Inland Resort is now being produced featuring the best of the city with no less than city Mayor Daisy Plaza heading the pool of movers and shakers that will grace the video. Creative and technical support of the project is being handled by Execom Multi-media Production and Advertising, a local production firm employing cutting-edge concepts and design using the latest in digital technology. For more details, call Execom at (085)342-3029 or 0917-9307322 and look for Owen.

PRESCHOOL TEXTBOOKS, ACTIVITY BOOKS

Belgosa Media Systems Inc. (BMS), publisher of quality educational materials for preschool, grade school and high school, recently launched its newest products, 'My Early Childhood Learning Series' preschool activity books and 'First Learners' Series' preschool textbooks during the Book O' Saurus Preschool Teachers Enhancement Program. BMS executive director Jun T. Calditaran (2nd from left) turns over copies of the newly launched books to the Department of Education represented by Dr. Teresita Naz, DepEd director for region V with Belgosa vice president Elaine G. Mapa (3rd from left), Diwa vice president Lourdes F. Lozano and book authors Joy Katigbak, Ma. Fatima Victa and Felino Tan representing Dr Vecelina Tan.

Product Files

Goldilocks' healthy candy, the Polvoron

GOLDILOCKS, the No.1 bakeshop in the country, introduces in leading supermarkets the Filipino's favorite snack – Goldilocks Sweet Delight Polvoron. The traditional Filipino snack made of milk and butter is now in your favorite supermarkets.

Goldilocks Sweet Polvoron is the ideal *pasalubong* for loved ones anywhere – at home, in the province or even as far as abroad. The product is individually wrapped, carefully arranged in plastic tray and boxed by the dozen. It comes in five delicious flavors: cashew, pinipig, cookies and cream, chocolate and special.

PRSP CONFERS APR ON 6 PR VETERANS

The Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) recently accredited six veteran PR practitioners who have demonstrated high level of ethics and professionalism in their practice of public relations. The new Accredited Public Relations (APR) are (from 2nd from left) Alexander C. Escuchua, first vice-president of China Banking Corp, Danilo A. Gozo, publisher, The Philippine News, Renato E. Nieva, president, Perceptions Inc., Dr. Jaime S. Ong, chair of marketing management department, De La Salle University, Bert P. Pasquin, assistant vice president, San Miguel Corp., and Teresita C. Villacorta, associate director of Ayala Corp. PRSP president Winston A. Marbella, APR (right) and PRSP accreditation committee chair Pete Padre, APR (left) presided over the conferment ceremonies. It was a major highlight of the 10th National PR Congress held recently at the Shangri-la Edsa Plaza Hotel.

People, Events & Products

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

OMMC stoma clinic for indigent Manilans

THE OSPITAL ng Maynila Medical Center (OMMC) started operating a stoma clinic Oct. 7 with a projected regular schedule of every Monday, 1 to 4 pm, at the OMMC Outpatient Department. The stoma clinic will cater to OMMC patients and indigent Manilans with stomas.

What is a stoma? It is an opening created by a surgeon on the surface of the human body using part of a hollow organ like the gastrointestinal tract, urinary tract, and respiratory tract. Common examples of stomas include a colostomy (originating from the large intestines discharging feces—the most common), ileostomy (from the small intestine), ileal conduit (discharging urine), and tracheal stoma. Stomas are created to allow egress and/or ingress of substances into/from the hollow organs as part of a life-saving/life- maintaining procedure. The most common conditions leading to stoma creation are cancers, trauma, inflammatory diseases, and congenital disorders.

How common are stomas being created in the Philippines? There are no reliable statistics at the moment. The OMMC Department of Surgery is in the process of creating a registry. The estimate is about 3 colostomies and 1 ileostomy per month in every tertiary local government hospital (about 100 in the country).

Patients with stomas are confronted with a lot of biopsychosocial problems, starting with the disease itself that forces the surgeon to create a stoma to the altered body image as a result of the stoma on the abdominal wall, the inconvenience of cleaning the stoma, and the financial burden of securing appliances for the stoma. Thus, all patients with stomas need all forms of rehabilitation.

The goal of the OMMC Stoma Clinic is to provide quality, comprehensive and holistic specialized care to patients with stomas.

In terms of service, it will provide professional services in the care of stomas and rehabilitation services to patients with stomas. It will offer a comprehensive stoma patient Care program which consists of: preoperative and postoperative counseling; proper construction of stoma; stoma rehabilitation clinic; an enterostomal therapist; and ostomy association. It will also provide continuing professional educational program to all concerned staff and conduct researches with the aim of improving services to patients with stoma.

The OMMC Stoma Clinic will be manned by general (abdominal) surgeons, nurses, health care givers and patient volunteers.

Prior to the opening of the OMMC Stoma Clinic, the staff who would man the clinic underwent training, first from the chair of the Department of Surgery of OMMC, who, in 1979, when he was still a surgical resident in the Philippine General Hospital, pioneered the establishment of a stoma clinic, enterostomal therapists (nurses specializing in the care of stoma patients) and stoma support group (the Philippine Stoma Association) in the country.

The staff also attended a workshop on how to establish a stoma clinic sponsored by the Philippine Cancer Society, Department of Health, and the Philippine College of Colorectal Surgery Sept. 28. The Philippine Cancer Society has donated about 10 cartons of stoma appliances to be given to indigent OMMC patients and Manilans with stomas.

The chair has created a website (http://stoma_mgt_phil.tripod.com) to serve not only as a learning resource for Filipino health care professionals involved in stoma surgery and stoma patients but also as a repository of information on stoma management in the Philippines. The website was created in time for the 4th Asian Ostomy Association Conference which was held from Oct. 23 to 26 at the Century Park Hotel, Ermita, Manila.

For more information on the OMMC Stoma Clinic, call 524-60-61 and ask for Dr. Nolim't Raquel or Dr. Alex Deveza.

2003 PANASONIC SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Three young professionals and outstanding graduates of top Philippine schools received the 2003 Panasonic Scholarship grants in awarding ceremonies held Aug. 29 at the Edsa Shangri-la Hotel. Sponsored by Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd. of Japan, the scholarship was established in 1998 and is awarded every year to students from six Asian countries. In the Philippines, the scholars are screened by the Panasonic Scholarship Office of the Matsushita Electric Philippines Corp. (Mepco). Shown are the third batch of Filipino scholars with guest of honor lawyer Raul S. Roco (3rd from left), Toshinobu Saito, president, Panasonic Scholarship Inc., MEI-Japan (left), Yukiharu Kubota, Mepco president and chair of the Panasonic Scholarship Phils. (right), and Kenichi Kimiya of the Japan Embassy (2nd from right). The 2003 Panasonic scholars are Rex T. Romero, Albert J. Causo and Christopher T. Que.

MEDICAL, DENTAL MISSION

A medical and dental mission was conducted in Binondo, Manila recently. A joint project of Barangay 288 (Zone 27, District 111, Manila) and the Philippine Chinese Charitable Association, the mission provided free medical and dental check-ups and free medicines/vitamins to some 400 indigent families in Binondo. Shown is Barangay 288 Chair Bernard Go (center) with Gandara sub-station commander Capt. Cesar Victorino and kagawad Willy Lao outside of the mission venue.

POSTHUMOUS AWARD

Corazon de la Paz, SSS president, receives the plaque of appreciation conferred to her late husband, Wenceslao de la Paz, who was the Presidential Adviser on Energy Affairs during the Aquino administration, for his immense contributions to the Philippine energy sector, particularly the promotion of indigenous coal as a viable source of fuel. She is shown receiving the plaque from Francisco Aragon Jr., president of the Philippine Chamber of Coal Mines Inc. (PhilCoal). On hand to witness the event are Ferdie Reyes (right) representing Florante Navarro, president of PNOC-coal and Arnulfo Robles (left) executive director of PhilCoal.

AMAZING BARBIE COLLECTIONS

Fashionable accessories from the Barbie house of collections are now available. Introducing the latest Medium size Barbie back pack which comes in handbag, small and big knapsacks, body bag and trolley made from sweet Polyphone with Oxford material; Tote Bag with size 10" x 8" made from Blue Denim Material with embossed print and patch from the Magical Me Theme. These Magical Me Blue Denim collection comes with a tote bag, pouch bag, 3 fold wallet, cosmetic kit, and hand bag with coin purse and the medium size backpack which comes with 9" and 12" backpack, shoulder bag, hand bag, wallet, and a pass case made from plastic PVC material. These are ideal gifts for the holiday season, especially for the young ones who want to be hip all the time. These are available at all leading stores nationwide, and are exclusively distributed by Richwell Trading Corp. located at 25 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

BANCARAVAN TEAM LANDS

The five-man Bancaravan sa Kalikasan team lands on the shores of Dapitan City in Zamboanga del Norte, ending an 82-day, 3,317-km island-hopping odyssey on a Pinoy outrigger banca K/B Kalikasan Vigilante from Aparri-Zamboanga for a marine environmental and eco-tourism advocacy adventure. With team-leader Vic Milan (center) are volunteers (from left) Eduardo Enriquez, Jose Mojares Jr., Ariel delos Reyes and Jasper Manlapaz.

Harmony Music unleashes 'Muziklaban-Lakas ng Tunog'

TURN ON your radio equipment. Power up its volume control. And prepare for "Muziklaban – Lakas ng Tunog!"

"Muziklaban – Lakas ng Tunog," the latest release from Harmony Music, is a war zone gathering of 10 of the best bands who survived the no-holds-barred Muziklaban band competition battleground. Each with a distinct sound of its own and armed to the teeth with musical artillery, their songs are either bombardments of thunderous rock or fired off with pinpoint rhythmic pop accuracy.

For the first time in three years, an album is made for the yearly Red Horse Muziklaban band competition where the 2001 Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Muziklaban competition winners and participants are featured in the album. Kick-off track is Blu Green's Incubus/rap metal induced "Tick," followed by the unavoidable Pinoy rock flavor of San Dimas' "Sa Daloy ng Ulan," which is incidentally the album's carrier single. Dreadlock's "7DH" will surely erase any form of tranquility left in your brain. But it isn't a man's world anymore as Hiraya records its song of the same title with its female vocalist aptly justifying its catchy, ear-friendly tune. Alternative OPM pop is dead? Wait till you hear Comets Tale sing "Kita Kita Kahapon." It never sounded this good since the Eraserheads. Balancing off this musical melting pot of an album is 3rd Degree with infectious pop and R&B sensibilities. As an added attraction, Comets Tale's award-winning rendition of the Red Horse Muziklaban jingle is also included. It would be a sin if that jingle titled "Lakas sa Loob" would not be the fitting ending track of the album. Other songs in the album are "Fall" by the Scarecrow, "Anytime Soon" by the Rubber Soul, "Still the One" by 7th Element and "Be Mine" by 3rd Degree.

Ten bands. 13 tracks. All killers, no fillers. One Red Horse Extra Strong album – "Muziklaban – Lakas ng Tunog" is now available in all leading record stores in CD and cassette formats. Released by Harmony Music, the OPM label of Alpha Records.

SAY AAH!

These students prove that there is nothing to fear about a dental visit as Dr. Rabbit reminds them to have regular dental checkups. The students of Jose Rizal Elementary School in Pasay City were given dental treatments and check ups by DepEd dentists and Philippine Dental Association local chapter dentists. This is just one of the many activities during the recently concluded Schoolchildren's Oral Health Awareness Week. The yearly observance is part of DepEd's thrusts for School Health Month. The key messages of Colgate's Bright Smiles, Bright Futures global oral health education program, which aims to inculcate proper oral health habits and practices among school children, were also reinforced as part of the celebration.

Avis' discount card

AVIS Rent A Car Philippines launched its newest discount card Oct 25. Called the "AVIS Preferred Circle", cardholders may enjoy as much as 20-percent discount on car rentals. Simultaneously, the Avis Philippines website www.avis.com.ph has also been launched. This launch was highlighted by a motorcade, followed by a week-long sales blitz activities.

Product FILES

OFF! soft and scented

SC Johnson and Sons Inc. distributor of OFF! Insect Repellent Lotion, brings a feminine touch to the insect repellent category with its latest introduction, OFF! Soft and Scented Insect Repellent Lotion. Formulated especially for young ladies, it has a new refreshing fragrance with added chamomile oil for that light, smooth, and soothing feel. OFF! Soft and Scented keeps the skin smelling fresh and feeling good as it protects the skin from itchy, disease-causing mosquito bites. OFF! Soft and Scented provides effective mosquito protection for up to four hours, double than that of ordinary lotions with repellents. OFF! Soft and Scented targets the root of the problem by warding off insects before they even decide to bite the skin. Thus, it also protects from insect-borne diseases such as malaria and the deadly dengue.

PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE
420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC BIDDING

The **Philippine Air Force Disposal Committee** will receive sealed bids until **04 Dec 2002, 2:00 P.M.** at **Conference Room of 420th Supply Wing,** Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga for the sale of the following unserviceable properties on **"as is, where is"** basis:

Lot Number / Description	LOCATION	MIN BID PRICE
Lot 5-283-022 – 10 T-28 engines with canister	Disposal Yard, Basa Air Base, Floridablanda, Pampanga	P3,150,000
Lot 5-283-023– 8 T-28 engines w/out canister	-do-	P2,070,000
Lot IID - assorted acft parts	-do-	P39,640
Lot IIID –assorted acft parts	-do-	P74,603
Lot I – 1: F-8H aircraft nr **302**	420th SW, Clark Air Base, Angeles City, Pampanga	P1,350,000
Lot I – 2: F-8H aircraft nr **307**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 3: F-8H aircraft nr **309**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 4: F-8H aircraft nr **311**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 5: F-8H aircraft nr **316**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 6: F-8H aircraft nr **317**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 7: F-8H aircraft nr **320**	-do-	P1,350,000
Lot I – 8: F-8H aircraft nr **322**	-do-	P1,350,000

REMINDERS TO BIDDERS:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in PAF official bid form.
3. Earnest money is required in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the bid price.
4. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commence.
5. Buyers of F-8H aircraft are required to submit an **"End Use - End User Certification"**
6. Additional information / request for inspection may be secured from the Disposal Unit, 420th SW, tel nr. (045) 599-2014/2015 loc. 6524
7. Pre-bid conference and issuance of Bid Forms (P100. 00 per set) will be on **21 Nov, 2002, 2:00 P.M. at 420th SW Conference Room,** 420th SW, Clark Air Base. Angeles City, Pampanga
8. Inspection schedule will be from 05 Nov to 29 Nov 2002, from 0800H to 1700H, Monday to Friday.

PAF DISPOSAL COMMITTEE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN, AND TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE **PAF**.

PAF Disposal Committee

(Sgd.) **Col. CLAUDIO P ESTALILLA PAF (GSC)**
Wing Commander, 420th SW, PAF
Chairman

(PDI: Nov 2, 3, 4, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. 100 C. Palanca St. Quiapo, Manila will sell all unredeemed pledges for the months of APRIL & MAY 2002 on Nov. 15, 2002 at 8:30am J. Lanuza Auctioneer

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Documents required:
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Submit application on or before November 8, 2002 to the Hospital Administrator's Office, UERM Hospital, Aurora Blvd., Quezon City c/o Ms. Gloria Ayco.

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30 October 2002

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND BID

The City Government of Olongapo invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for furnishing the necessary labor, materials and equipment for the following projects to wit:

Item No.	Name of Project/ Location	Description	Approved Budget for the Contract Works	Required PCAB Registration and Classification
Package I	1. Construction of City Hall Building Extension	a. The project calls for the construction of a three storey building having a total floor area of 1,208.00 square meters. b. The said extension will house the offices of City Health, Population Commission, Urban Basic Services Program and City Social Welfare and Development Office. This would make the offices all under one roof thereby expediting the flow of transactions.	P13.0 Million	Medium A (Building construction)
Package II	2. Construction of Covered Court at Rizal Triangle		P10.0 Million	Medium A (Building construction)

Interested bidders with the above cited PCAB classification and prequalified by the Local PBAC are eligible to bid for the above cited projects and are requested to submit the needed documents independently.

Pre-C forms shall be made available to contractors classified above at the PBAC Secretariat, City Planning and Development Office upon submittal of Letter of Intent and latest PCAB License on November 11, 2002 at the Office of the PBAC Chairman, Office of the City Mayor, 2nd Floor City Hall Olongapo City. Prospective bidders are required to bring original copy of Contractor's License for verification/authentication purposes.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification statements shall not be later than 5:00 P.M., 25 November 2002 to be submitted at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall, this city. The Local PBAC shall notify in writing all prequalified and pre-disqualified contractors

Bid/Tender Documents are available for issuance starting 03 December 2002 at the City Planning and Development Office, 2nd Floor, City Hall upon payment of the non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) for Package I and Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00) for Package II project at the City Treasurer's Office, this city.

All bids from prequalified contractors must be submitted to and received not later than 10:00 A.M. on 18 December 2002 at the Office of the Chairman, PBAC, this city after which all bids will be publicly opened.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on 10 December 2002 at 10:00 A.M. at the City Council Session Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Olongapo City.

All particulars relative to the pre-qualification, bid evaluation and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of P.D. 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations.

The City Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities found therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the City.

(Sgd.) KATE H. GORDON
City Mayor

(PDI--Nov. 1, 4 & 11, 2002)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED COUNTRYSIDE RURAL BANK (REAL, QUEZON), INC. (CRBI)

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will conduct its final receiving of claims for insured deposits in the closed Countryside Rural Bank (Real, Quezon), Inc. (CRBI). Relative thereto, depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated on the table below, to file their claims for insured deposits with PDIC representatives who are stationed at said sites. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Duration of Travel	*Name of CRBI Banking Unit*	*Claims Processing Site*
November 5, 2002 to November 11, 2002	Real, Quezon – Head Office	CRBI – Head Office M.L. Quezon Avenue Real, Quezon
	Angono, Taytay, Antipolo, Cainta and Tanay	Community SLA – Head Office, Rizal Avenue, Taytay
	Famy and Pagsanjan	CRBI – Famy Branch National Highway Famy, Lagun a

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

1. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook, certificate of time deposits and/or latest bank statement and unused check).
2. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature.

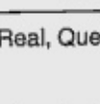
Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Countryside Rural Bank (Real, Quezon), Inc. is on **November 11, 2002**. After **November 11, 2002**, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the closed CRBI.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI - Nov. 4, 2002)

Opportunity knocks but once.



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Chairman

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December 30, 1931 – November 1, 2002
Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 70.

His bereaved wife **Josefina**; children **Jay** & **Nora, Jaja** & **Enjo, Jojo** & **Suzette**; grandchildren **Jara, Jaian, Joey, Jia, Ej, Jio, Erjay, Jophie, Joaqui, Julia**; sisters **Fely Laguras, Letty Maala** request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Resurrection Chapel, San Pablo Cathedral, San Pablo City, Laguna. Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 5, 2002, at 7:00 AM.

Interment will follow at the San Pablo Memorial Park, San Pablo City, Laguna.

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in Me, even if he dies, will live..."

Jn. 11:25

In Loving Memory
of
All the departed members of the Clergy
and Religious Brothers and Sisters who served the
Archdiocese of Manila
a

REQUIEM MASS

will be held at the Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz, Plaza San Lorenzo Ruiz, Binondo, Manila on Thursday, November 7, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. with Rt. Rev. Msgr. Josefino Ramirez as the main celebrant and homilist.

His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin will also be there for the Eucharistic Celebration.

We invite their families and relatives to attend, and request all pious readers to pray for their souls.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who longed for His appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7-8

ERNESTO CATALDI

(Retired Asian Development Bank Officer)
of Vicenza, Italy and Corinthian Gardens, QC
23 October 1936 – 31 October 2002
Peacefully joined his Creater and now rest in His goodness and grace.

We, his bereaved wife **MARIA LUISA NODA**; children **FABIOLA** and **LUCIANO**; grandson **MARCO**; mother **NATALIA PLESSI**; brother, **CLAUDIO**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, cousins, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains were cremated at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina on 2 November 2002.

A memorial service will be held today, Monday, 4 November, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at the Christ the King Parish Mortuary, Green Meadows Ave., Q.C.

Jose Arce Ignacio

Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Joined his Creator on October 29, 2002

He leaves behind his wife Edna S. Triviño, children Ronaldy, Lalaine and Jerry, his son-in-law Enrico Belmonte, grandchildren Carl, Candice and Claudine, his sisters Erlinda A.I. Espiritu, Rosita A.I. Cusi and Alice A.I. Sandejas.

A wake will be held beginning Tuesday, November 5, 2002 at 3:00 p.m. at the Sanctuario de San Jose Mortuary, Greenhills East.
Holy Mass for the ninth day of prayers will be held at Sanctuario de San Jose on Thursday, November 7, 2002 at 6:15 p.m.

The family requests prayers for the eternal repose of Joe's soul.

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"From darkness let the light shine!" Genesis 1:3

"I waited, waited for the Lord; who bent down and heard my cry."
Psalm 40:2

CARLOS SALUTA GOROSIN

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 2, 2002 at the age of 73

His loving wife **FE GRACE LLENARIZAS**, brother **DR. RESTITUTO GOROSIN**, sisters **HANRIETTA CAPOTULAN, NENITA. NESSIA** and **DAISY GOROSIN**; mother-in-law **CARMEN S. LLENARIZAS**, in-laws **AMADO NESSIA, LEONIDAS GOROSIN**, nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandniece, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 10 G. Araneta Ave., Q.C.

Interment to be announced later.

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In this adventure, four-play is better

By Leo Magno

THE WARRIOR Miko left his fellow adventurers after they faced the demon Skorne. Skorne was beaten by Warrior Miko with the help of Kaipo the Knight, Robbie the Archer and Leo the Dashing Dwarf. However, Skorne went back to the underworld and the wizard Sumner ordered the adventurers to follow the demon down there after getting all the rune stones and shards. Only then shall the demon Skorne be banished forever.

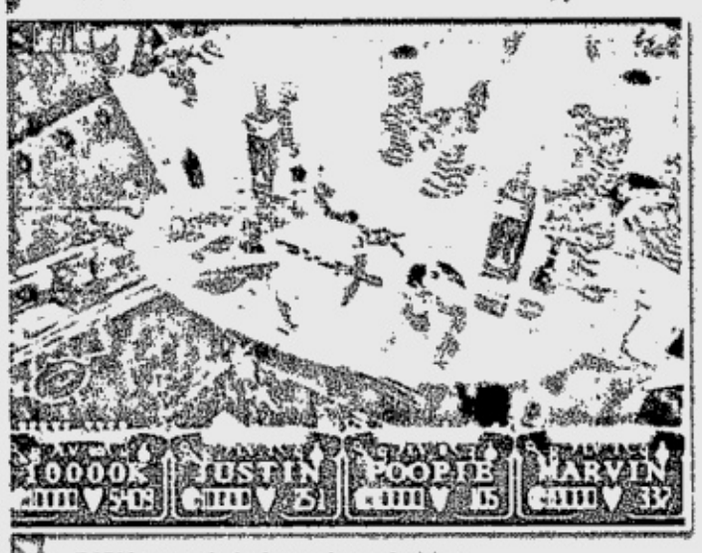
This is basically the plot of "Gauntlet: Dark Legacy," which I have been playing with Miko, Robbie and Kaipo—my wife's nephews—for several months now. You might think it's a shame for me to be playing with a bunch of 10-year-olds, but when it comes to video games these kids rule. They can actually kick my ass around in fighting games and first-person multiplayer shooters.

Our Gauntlet adventure, sadly, came to an end when Miko the Warrior had to transfer to Roxas City where his family relocated. Leo the Dwarf's progress was also halted, stuck on Level 61 while the others were already in the Level 90s . Kaipo the Knight and Robbie the Archer sorely miss their Warrior cousin, indeed.

We review this game on the XBox

Gauntlet is the latest version of that classic '80s coin-op game which revolutionized the arcade industry. For the first time four players can play onscreen simultaneously, choosing from a variety of players. Midway Games revived Gauntlet in the '90s, and today the game is available in next-generation consoles like the Sony PlayStation2, the Nintendo GameCube and the Microsoft Xbox. Although there's no substantial difference between the different versions, for this review, we checked out the Xbox version.

Gauntlet is a third-person adventure where you get to choose from a variety of characters—a wizard, a Valkyrie, a warrior, an archer, a sorceress, a dwarf, a knight or a jester who walks around like he just sat on his own cane. Although you can play the game alone, it is Gauntlet's multiplayer feature which shines. This is the first cooperative multiplayer game I bought for the Xbox (Halo doesn't count because more often than not, you get to frag each other instead of cooperating toward a common goal), and so necessitated my purchase of two more Xbox controllers (ouch!).



DISH out pain in four-player fashion

But don't be fooled by the word "cooperative" in the context of Gauntlet. Although the four players have to go through all the 60 levels of all the chambers of all the realms in the game, countless powerups, treasure and other booty litter the various stages. Even if you work hard to fight off several enemies and finally unlock that treasure, one of the other three players can beat you to it. This is why you'd often hear players (and even in the background audio) saying: "Hey! That was mine!"

As the wizard Sumner guides you through the different realms, you have to pick up crystals, lion's claws, eagle's claws, golden fangs and gems which serve as keys to the other realms. If one of the four adventurers has the required number of such keys, the entire party may enter that realm. However, if you play without that character, you won't be able to enter. That's why sometimes you can't help but gobble up everything in your path—be it a crystal, a key, fruits or meat. When one of the party of four becomes weak, he or she needs to eat fruits or meat, which sometimes entails a little bit of sacrifice for the entire group. But of course you can choose to turn the whole game into a free-for-all instead of a cooperative one.

The whole thing started when the evil mage Garm, younger brother of the ruler—the wizard Sumner—started to covet his bro's seat of power. Seeking to increase his own magical status, Garm tried to gather the 13 legendary

GAUNTLET/ B19

THE MULTIPLAYER cooperative gameplay of Gauntlet: Dark Legacy is a big draw. Four players can help fight the bad guys and cover each other's backs as they progress in the game. However, the entire group of adventurers becomes only as good as the weakest link, since most of the time the players will have to wait for the slowpoke among the group.

Siemens segments mobile line; builds voice-centric HQ outside Germany

By Leo Magno

IN A BID to adjust to the diversifying demands of mobile phone users and as profit margins continue to become razor thin in an increasingly saturated market, Siemens' Information and Communication Mobile (ICM) Group has segmented its mobile product line into two main units.

The German company is reclassifying its mobile product lines into two distinct segments—the voice-centric segment and the feature-rich segment. Surprisingly, Siemens has decided to create a new headquarters for the voice-centric department outside of Germany.

"Beijing is now the global headquarters of our voice-centric phones, and it will be in charge of global production and marketing," said Lothar Pauly, member of the board of Siemens ICM. "We chose Asia because of its highly skilled workforce and expertise in programming languages."

Another reason why the voice-centric department's office was placed in Beijing is that Asia is becoming a huge market for such phones. Pauly said Asia is home to mobile users who want basic voice and text functionalities where price is a consideration.

PAULY

"We are very much convinced that the market is changing," he said. "Today, the market is gravitating more toward the mid-priced segment."

Pauly said price and fashion, not technology, are what's important in the voice-centric market. Siemens, along with other German companies, is known to produce technically superior and robust products from an engineering perspective. Today, however, Siemens admits that the focus is more on consumer needs and marketing demands.

"This industry is filled with terrible acronyms nobody understands," Pauly said. "The future of mobile communications is not determined by technology alone. That's why Siemens is focusing from technology to the consumer."

Aside from the voice-centric market, the other segment Siemens has defined is the feature-rich mobile market. These are the ones used in business applications and technically demanding processes. That's why some Asian mobile phones were designed in a way that the basic functionalities of a globally released phone are kept while the other high-end ones were trimmed.

This is what Siemens did with the regional launch of its S57, the Asian version of the S55 in Europe and the S56 in the United States. The S57 is a triband, GPRS (general packet radio system) phone with a colored display and the capability to take pictures via the QuickPic camera accessory which attaches at the bottom of the phone. Although the phone has high-end features, Siemens took out Bluetooth capabilities from the S57 (it is available on the S55 and S56) because, Siemens says, Asia is not yet ready for the wide and regular use of Bluetooth.

"In the US, the market is business-driven," Pauly said. "That's why you have mobile-to-desktop synchronization and Bluetooth. In Asia, price and fashion count."

That's also why, Pauly said, a new casing color was added to the Asian S57 while Bluetooth was taken out.

Pauly added that the two main segments of Siemens mobile phones—voice-centric and feature rich—are subdivided into further segments. This, he said, is a prerequisite for survival in the mobile handset market where competition is tight and where Nokia still holds the top spot.

"You have to segment the market into very thin slices if you want to succeed in this market," Pauly said. "Today the consumer segment is driving the market, one that is fun-driven and entertainment-driven. It is driven by the youth segment and not by the business sector."

In the near future, Pauly said the smart phone will become popular, which is why Siemens will introduce products in this new segment in the middle of next year.

Office 11 to run only on newer Windows?

By Gerry Plaza

ACCORDING to a report, Microsoft plans to offer its next generation Office suite only on the newer versions of the software firm's operating systems, creating a serious dent in its already straining relationship with users burdened with huge license fees.

While Microsoft has not confirmed it formally, an unnamed source from within the company told a popular newsgroup of Microsoft developers and beta-testers that Office 11, the next version of the office productivity suite, would run only on at least Windows 2000 with Service Pack 3 and Windows XP. This means upgrading to the new Office would also force users to upgrade to the newer version of Windows.

But however, in a rejoinder statement that appeared in a popular IT portal said Microsoft formally has not made any final decisions yet on what or what not will be featured in Office 11. "Office 11 Beta 1 is a typical early beta release in that the product is still in progress," Microsoft said. "As with any beta release, Microsoft will receive a lot of feedback from beta testers, and many of these suggestions may be worked into the final product."

But plans to limit access to Office 11 are still rife in the development level, with Microsoft considering how it would impact its product and business, as a whole.

The prospect of having Office to run on fewer platforms would greatly take its toll, again, on Microsoft's so-called "image" of dominating its market space, whatever it takes. The mere fact that some US customers have felt they were forced to comply with a licensing agreement three times costlier than a per-seat deal, sort of seals Microsoft's "perception problem" with most of its market.

But according to some technology market analysts, Microsoft is merely toeing the same line it has treaded for the more recent phases of its product roadmap. The looming prospect of shedding "backward compatibility" in Microsoft's newer products like Office is consistent with its espousing a single code base for all its offerings.

In the era of Windows 95/98 and Windows NT/2000, Microsoft had to develop two variants of the same product to create a consumer version on one hand and a business version on the other. In the advent of Windows XP, Microsoft started to develop its software on a single code base leading to lesser development costs and as they claim, improves Office as a product and stabilizes its operation on the 32-bit plain.

This strategy, however, would not sit well with most users. Obvious dissenters to the prospect are current users of Windows 98 and Me, which would be reportedly phased out support-wise on June 30, 2003. These consumers may need to purchase a new PC just to use Microsoft's later offerings.

Microsoft's plan would clearly benefit the company, unfortunately at the expense of millions of its installed base of consumer operating systems. But then again, industry watchers see it as a temporary "image" problem for the software firm that can be hurdled once users find out how necessary it is to upgrade to new software to take advantage of new technology.

Closer look at the ECS Desknote i-Buddie

By Jerry Liao

THIS week we take a closer look at a new product, the ECS Desknote i-Buddie.

Strengths

(1) Built-in modem, four USB 2.0 ports, S-video TV-out, infrared, speakers, serial and parallel ports, VGA-out port, line-out

(2) Four shortcut buttons (Internet, e-mail, volume increase and decrease), built-in touchpad, measures 320 x 265 x 39 mm, weighs less than 5 lb

THE BOTTOM LINE

(3) Comes free with Linux OS CD, drivers and utilities, internal 24X CD-ROM drive or 8X DVD drive, external USB Floppy drive

CLOSER/ B19

Macapagal says Silicon Valley confident in country's IT sector

DURING her recent trip to San Jose, California after the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo noted the confidence manifested by executives of the information technology enterprises in Silicon Valley on the ICT (information and communications technology) sector of the Philippines.

"If the business community feels that way, especially the community in the growth sector of the future for the Philippines, which is ICT, then I think this message has to be brought back to the Philippines so that they'll know that there is confidence on the most important growth sector for the future in our country," the President said in an interview with Cable News Network while in the United States.

In her brief visit to San Jose, the President was able to convince business leaders and executives in the world's information technology capital to outsource their business and pour in more investments into the Philippines.

One of the chief executive officers of Silicon Valley, Richard Swanson, president of Sunpower Corp., promised to establish a $200-million solar cell manufacturing company in the country, which would be fully operational by 2004. The plant is expected to generate at least 1,400 jobs in four years.

FILIPINO employees of Intel greet President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during her visit to the company's fabrication plant in Sta. Clara, California. With her is Intel chair of the board Andrew Grove.

Aside from Sunpower Corp., Cypress Semiconductor Corp. also informed the President of its plans to put up a silicon wafer fabrication plant in the Philippines.

Cypress, a company that specializes in high-volume manufacture of silicon cells at very low costs, is a major partner of Sunpower, a manufacturer of ultra high-efficiency silicon solar cells.

Other major Silicon Valley investors in the country include Intel, PeopleSoft, Cisco, HP-Compaq, Oracle, Sun Microsystems, Sybase and Agilent Technologies.

More firms going for Linux to save on IT spending

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

A SOFTWARE executive from Oracle Philippines acknowledged recently that more and more local companies are seeking Linux-based solutions to push down the cost of information technology spending.

"We see a trend where companies need to push down the total cost of ownership (of technology). And if Linux is the answer, then that will be the trend," said Joel Garcia, solutions manager of Oracle Philippines' e-business Solutions.

Linux is a Unix-like open-source operating system designed to provide computers with a free or low-cost alternative to existing packaged operating systems.

Even companies like Oracle have recently decided to run some of its e-business applications on a Red Hat Linux platform that was certified by Dell, Garcia said. This was part of its commitment after forming an alliance with Dell and Red Hat.

Garcia said at least 40,000 users access these e-business applications that are hosted in one of Oracle's datacenters.

The executive declined to explain how much savings Oracle realizes by using Linux-based platforms, but said the cost-savings will eventually affect the bottom line of the company.

Garcia said most companies now believe that increasing internal efficiency—and not just simply migrating to a new software or hardware—will eventually translate to more cost-savings.

But the executive admitted that Linux is now playing a bigger role in cutting down cost in spending for technology.

"Linux has become a viable alternative for Intel-based platforms because it significantly improves the total cost of ownership for such technology," Garcia said.

In short, Linux platforms are now seen by companies not merely as low-cost machines running "non-critical" business apps. They are now a viable option for firms that have become more stringent when it comes to tech spending.

Garcia noted that hardware vendors like Apple, IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Sun and Dell are now racing to build affordable "1U" rack-mount servers that support Linux.

Garcia said that 1U servers only cost a fraction of the usual Unix servers, and are designed to run powerful applications.

"(Oracle) does not necessarily have to push Linux in the Philippines these days. Our customers are now asking if Oracle supports Linux," Garcia said.

New language for your keyboard

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

ASIDE from English, you can actually use your keyboard to produce other international languages. Here's how:

(1) Go to Start / Settings / Control Panel and click on Add/Remove Programs.

(2) Click the Window Setup tab.

(3) Click on the Multilanguage Support Box.

(4) Click Details and select the language you want to use.

(5) Click OK then OK again.

(6) The changes will take effect after you restart your PC.

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph. For comments, e-mail infochat@mozcom.com.

FUJI XEROX
NEWS

FXP Supports the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research General Assembly

Fuji Xerox Philippines, Inc. supported the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Manila by addressing the documentation requirements of this grand international event. Hosted by the Government's Department of Agriculture (DA) and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) , the CGIAR Annual General Meeting ran from October 30 to November 1, 2002 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. Around 400 to 600 delegates mostly comprised of scientists and researchers from all over the world graced the event.

The tremendous and various requirements for documentation for the assembly prompted the event organizers to seek the services of Fuji Xerox Philippines, Inc. As various types and forms of documentation in mass volume were required, at times on-the-spot, Fuji Xerox provided their 5800 High-Volume Reproduction System, a powerful and high-speed printer capable of producing professional looking documents on-demand.

Meeting the requirements of the event, the Xerox 5800 allowed the creation of a variety of documents, from simple memos, position papers, manuals with tabs to impressive signature booklets. It can print and complete an entire print cycle in just one operation, maintaining excellent print quality from start to finish. This is achieved through the advanced Closed-Loop Xerographics Quality Management System that enables the machine to provide offset-like quality print every time.

For sorting and stacking requirements, the xerox 5800/5100 possesses an integrated collator capable of stacking up to ten thousand sets nonstop. With this unique feature, voluminous jobs are efficiently and effortlessly completed.

The Xerox 5800/5100 is adaptable to all specific printing needs, increasing productivity and making short work of even the toughest jobs. Thus, for high volume printing requirements, there is simply no other efficient machine that can do the work but the Xerox 5800/5100.

Once again, Fuji Xerox has proven its commitment of providing only the best products and services in document management by supporting the CGIAR Annual General Assembly.

THE DOCUMENT COMPANY
FUJI XEROX

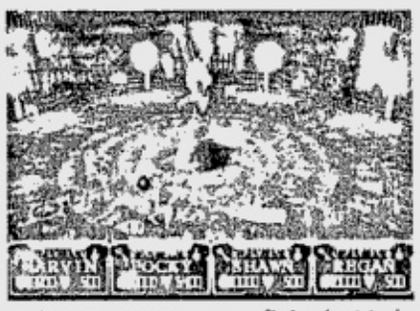
Gauntlet: In this adventure, four-play . . .

From page B18

rune stones. He tried to tap the power of the Underworld using the rune stones, but instead unleashed the demon Skorne. Skorne crushed Garm beneath his feet, turning him into instant road kill. The demon then scattered the rune stones across the five realms and ordered his ugly minions to guard them.

Now, the four adventurers who were summoned by Sumner have to find those rune stones and fight Skorne.

The cooperative multiplayer feature of this game is fun, as you and three friends travel in a pack, working together to defeat Skorne's minions and reaching the last chamber of each realm to face a rune stone guardian (a boss in layman's terms). But like similar games such as "Hunter: The Reckoning," traveling in a pack has its advantages and disadvantages. Yes, you get to cover each other's backs and help each other defeat enemies when you travel as a group, but the downside is that the group of four is only as strong as the weakest link. If one always gets left behind, you can't progress further up the map. You have to wait for the slowpoke to rejoin your group. You can also get stuck in a corner when you're headed one direction and the others are headed the other way. It's like a guy with four heads driving on the highway, and all the heads are craning their necks in different directions, depending on which billboard has a poster of Aubrey Miles or Maui Taylor or . . . well, you get the idea.



As a group, you get to fight the Litch, a dragon, a genie, a chimera, a blob, a giant half-woman half-spider boss and others on your way to Skorne's realm. There are melee weapons and long-range ones which you can use. After a while it tends to become repetitive, especially when you're loaded on health and you know the enemies are gonna go down sooner or later; it's just a matter of time.

This game is linear, but not without a bit of a twist. You can't enter certain realms until you collect enough "keys." Problem is, these keys are within certain sections of other realms, meaning you have to go back to other chambers several times and collect keys even after defeating the boss for that realm.

Graphics-wise, Gauntlet doesn't have much to offer. Although you're given a pretty good 45-degree bird's eye view, the pre-rendered environment still looks flat. If you've tried fully 3D interactive worlds before, Gauntlet won't impress you. The camera angles can also be a pain. Gauntlet has a floating camera which can't be controlled. Your group of four may be climbing up stairs, and the camera pans to follow based on a preset position. When the camera stops and your group is attacked, you can get clobbered if something is blocking the view. The only solution then is for all of you to move forward so the camera will proceed to its next preset angle.

The characters are not 3D either—they are made up of sprites, something like animated GIFs. Each character is an individually animated element placed in a larger graphic image which is the prerendered environment of the different realms. It is generally easier to specify rules for the behaviors of the sprite characters and control how they can be moved and what should happen when they interact with other graphic elements.

Midway continues on the fun element of the original Gauntlet, and I must admit this game got me hooked several months back when we started playing as a team. However, with the profusion of other multiplayer games out there which are better-looking, fully 3D and with characters that have more moves (such as "Mystic Heroes" on the GameCube or "Dynasty Warriors" on the Xbox), Gauntlet can fast become an old game.

Still, despite its short shelf-life, Gauntlet is a game wherein—at least for a while—I was able to play as a Dashing Dwarf, and my wife Cristy's nephews were able to go on an adventure beyond this world. For several months we were warriors and heroes in an adventure which I'm sure Miko the Warrior, Robbie the Archer and Kaipo the Knight won't easily forget.

Closer . . .

From page B18

4. 14.1" XGA TFT-LCD (up to 1024x768 resolution), 128Mb SDRAM (upgradable to 512Mb)

Weaknesses

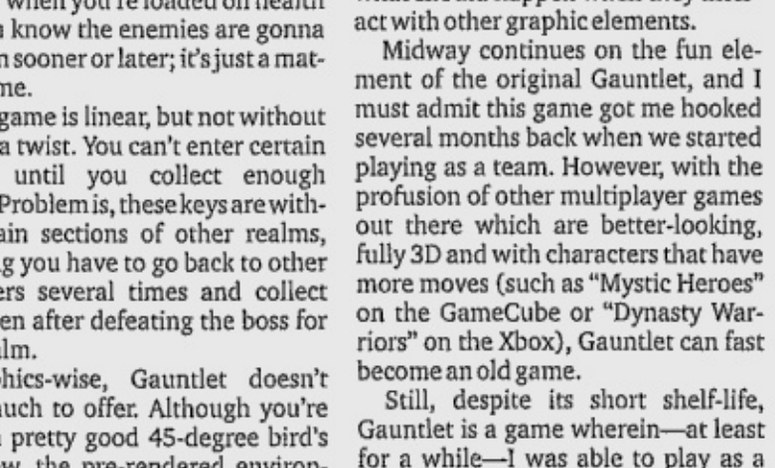
(1) Runs on power plug. Battery is optional.

(2) Experienced some driver incompatibility problem but was able to fix it on the third try.

The bottom line

The ECS Desknote is a low-cost but powerful machine, a space-saving machine that provides people with power and some portability. A great fit for small firms on tight budgets.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit www.infochat.com.ph. Want us to review a product? Send e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com.



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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Study says mobile users won't rush to get MMS

MULTIMEDIA Messaging Service (MMS) is not going to match the hype that accompanies its launch, and will not be as widely accepted as Short Message Service (SMS). This is the sobering message delivered by the Wireless World Forum (W2F) in its research titled "Multimedia Messaging 2002: The Big Picture." The W2F report is the first to puncture the MMS analysts' bubble. W2F believes that the upgraded functionality of color, audio and graphics is not going to see a complete migration of users from SMS to MMS. The research is based on interviews with key executives within W2F's 3,000-strong wireless industry executive membership and intensive statistical research.

The research shows that mobile phone users perceive SMS to be cheaper and easier to use than voice. The messaging market, accounting for 88 percent of all usage, is the youth market. However, the initial cost of MMS phones are priced out of the youth age group, slowing down the initial acceptance of MMS.

The research adds that MMS has different drivers than SMS. It creates more of an entertainment medium rather than the purer communication role of text messaging. W2F believes that MMS will only take a small market share of the SMS market and will not be a direct substitute.

The research highlights a mismatch between the industry push and user demand of MMS. W2F says that wild industry predictions stating market values in excess of $50 billion per annum only serve to damage the potential success of MMS. The research further predicts that MMS will be worth $5.8 billion by 2006, a figure less than 20 percent of today's analyst predictions.

MMS growth in areas such as photo and peer-to-peer messaging will account for just under 700 million messages each per month by 2006. The largest markets, in terms of messages sent per month in 2006, will be the United States (726.8 million), Germany (324 million) and UK (258.4 million).

An important thing to consider in the Philippines is that, according to W2F, the adoption of MMS will be slow until the majority of prepaid phones become MMS-enabled. In the Philippines, more than 80 percent of cell phones use prepaid accounts.

The early adopter category of 20 to 34-year-olds will represent a large proportion of the initial users. However, by 2006, 15 to 19-year-olds will constitute the bulk of MMS use in the larger markets.

The research adds that unless there is better understanding of consumer lifestyle needs and how they adopt technology, MMS will not meet expectations.

W2F says MMS must have sober business models, and today this is not the case. Business strategies must consider pricing, consumer segmentation and marketing, greater cooperation, interoperability between devices, usability and partnerships with third party content providers with clear revenue-sharing models.

Quadmedia News Agency

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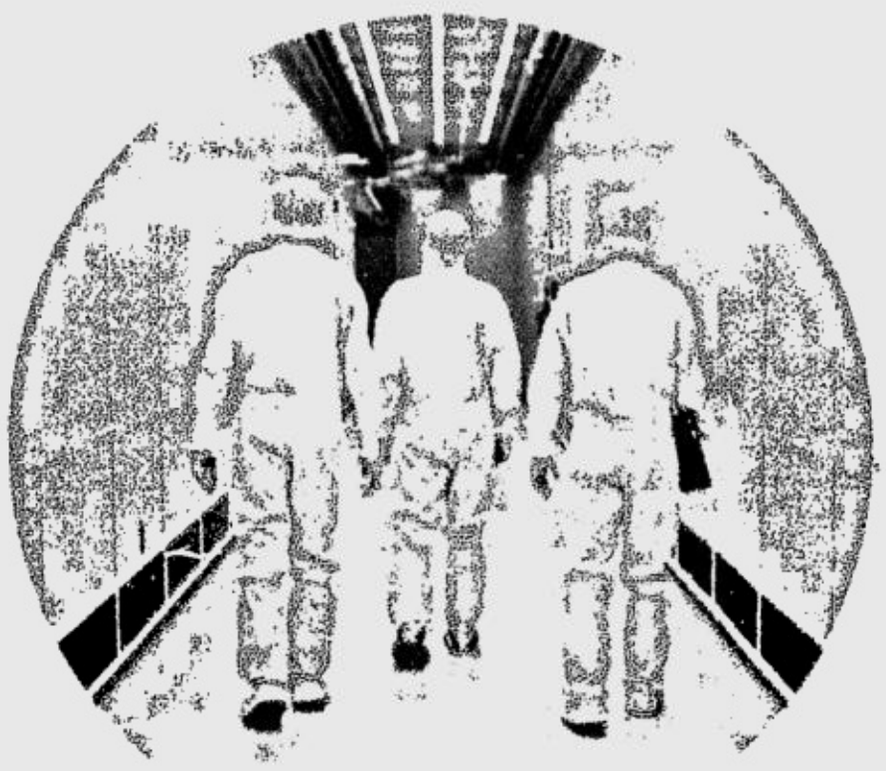

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BUSINESSMonday
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

RP's int'l board of advisers holds secret meets with GMA

MEMBERS of the Philippine International Board of Advisors, composed of the world's top corporate, political and diplomatic leaders recently flew to Manila and held two days of secret meetings with the President, members of the Cabinet and select private sector representatives.

The discussions revolved around the state of the Philippine economy, its prospects and the government's ongoing efforts to promote economic development and increase foreign investment and international competitiveness.

Without any fanfare or publicity, the International Board of Advisors to President Macapagal-Arroyo, dined in the Taipan restaurant of the Tower Club, a by-invitation-only business and social club in Makati.

The dinner was a hush-hush meeting and came at the conclusion of a two-day series of off-the-record meetings with the President, top government and business leaders.

The dinner was formidable but very significant.

Representing the government in the high-profile meetings were Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II, Presidential Adviser on Job Creation Luis Lorenzo and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

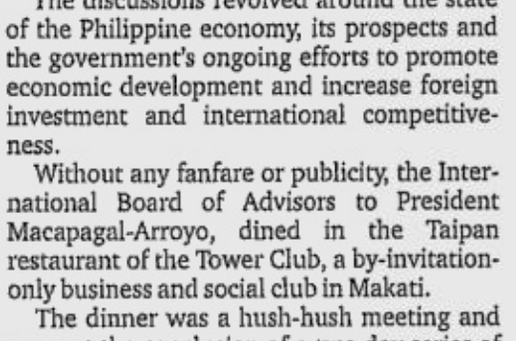
Private sector participants included Rizalino Navarro, chairman of RCBC and Clark Development Corp.; Enrique Razon Jr. and Noel Mirasol, chairman and senior vice president, respectively, of ICTSI; Ramon Dimacali and Gil Guanio, chairman and CEO, respectively, of Software Ventures International.

On the other side of the table was the International Board of Advisors, comprised of Maarten van den Bergh, chairman of Llyods TSB Group; Stephen Bosworth, senior advisor to JP Morgan and dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts Universtiy.

Antony Burgmans, chairman of Unilever; E. Gerald Corrigan, managing director of Goldman, Sachs & Co.; Sabier de Irala Estevez, chairman and CEO of Iberia Lineas Aereas de España; Marce Fuller, president and CEO of Mirant Corp.; Dr. Victor Fung,

RP'S/ C4

TOWER Club's general manager Rupert Haarhoff, Washington Sycip and Peter Zuellig.



ROBERTO Romulo

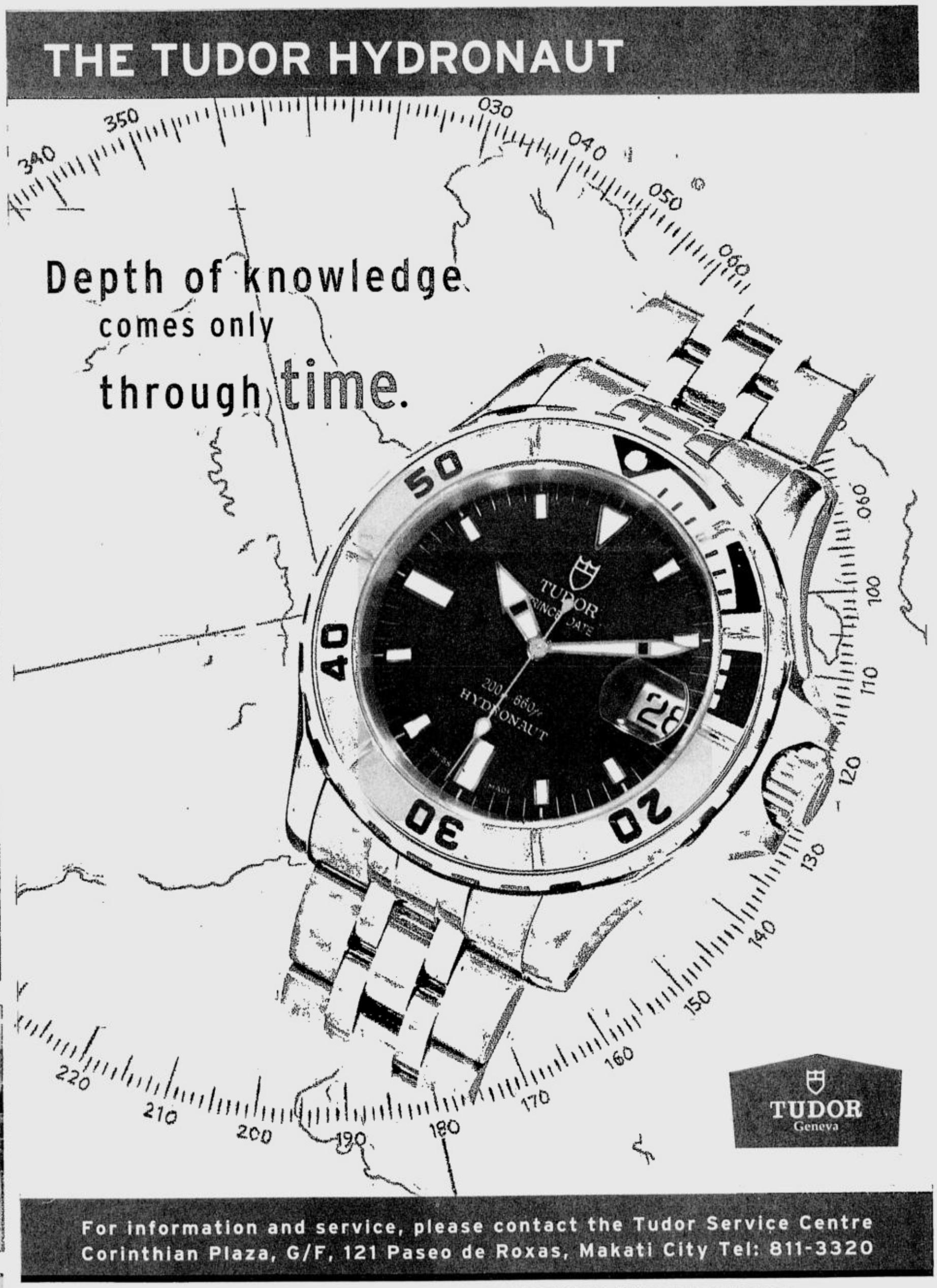
SEN. Franklin Drilon with wife Mila

RAMON and Marivic del Rosario

KIM Camacho, Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho with former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating

THE TUDOR HYDRONAUT

Depth of knowledge comes only through time.



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-Level 2, Mega B, SM Megamall
-Level 2, Expansion Mall,
Alabang Town Center
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MULTI-TIME EMPORIUM
-G/F, SM City, North Edsa, Q.C.

RUSTAN'S SILVER VAULT
-Rustan's Makati, Ayala Center

TIME TREND CENTER
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SM Megamall
-Ground Level, SM City, Manila

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-Lower G/F, SM City, Manila
-G/F, SM City, North Edsa, Q.C.
-North Mall, Alabang Town Center
-G/F, Ali Mall
-G/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
-G/F, Harrison Plaza

WASHINGTON WATCHES & JEWELRIES
-G/F, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
-Level R1, Power Plant Mall
Rockwell Center

Worried about toy shortages, parents plot their holiday shopping strategies

NEW YORK—The annual scramble for the holiday season's hottest toys could be especially ugly this year because of labor trouble on the West Coast docks.

The 10-day shutdown and its aftermath have raised the possibility of merchandise shortages this Christmas season, particularly in the toy industry, which gets most of its products from Asia and relies on suppliers to deliver on short notice.

Given the backlog of goods on the docks, industry analysts believe some shipments might not arrive in stores until right before the last weekend in November.

Many stores that have already received shipments are worried they will not have time to reorder toys that prove to be surprise hits.

That could end up disappointing children—and toy retailers, whose holiday season accounts for 50 percent of their annual sales.

"Now there's an added wrinkle to the chase," said David Novitsky, vice president and divisional merchandising manager at KB Toys Inc.

Mattel's Barbie as Rapunzel, which reached stores in September, is expected to be this year's hottest toy overall, according to PlayDate Inc., an independent marketing services company that surveyed 25 retailers.

Stores have also reported that anything connected with Yu-Gi-Oh! a Japanese game introduced in the United States in March, has become a big hit.

Also popular are MGA Entertainment's new collection of Bratz dolls called Funk 'N Glow, and Toy Biz's Dual Action Web Blaster, tied to the "Spider-Man" movie.

LeapFrog's Learning System, which was launched in 1999 and continues to add software, should also be among the top 10 toys this season, according to PlayDate.

While there's no new video game console on the market, software makers have a number of new games. Rockstar Games' "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" and Electronic Arts' "Bond 007: Nightfire," are ones to watch, according to Sean McGowen, cofounder of PlayDate, and toy analyst at Gerard Klauer Mattison.

Most video game software makers produce the games domestically, so they are not expected to be affected by the West Coast port shutdown.

Tom Conley, president of the Toy Industry Association, acknowledged big challenges ahead for the industry, particularly because of the expected shortages. But he said he is also worried that parents will feel too financially strapped to splurge on toys.

Marie Carre of New York said that given worries about her own job security, she will spend less on her 11-year-old daughter, Lisa. Carre has been unable to find permanent work, and does stints as an administrative assistant. *AP*

Principles and practices

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Jerry S. Isla

WHEN we at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) speak of good corporate governance, we refer to the steps we take to ensure our clients that they will continue to be confident about the quality of our audit work and our steadfast commitment to independence and objectivity.

Is good governance still possible given the recent devastation in corporate America? We say yes, but with a most emphatic resolve to restore public confidence in the system and the information used and relied upon by investors.

Restoring public confidence

How can we help restore public confidence? Regulators, market players, boards of directors, public accountants and others have found a common ground in restoring public confidence—recognizing the importance of a strong and effective relationship between a company's audit committee and its independent accountants.

For an accounting firm, effectiveness begins with good governance.

It means managing our people, their competencies, the systems and processes in the work environment and ensuring that our professionals comply with the high standards set by our global firm and the applicable Philippine professional and governmental regulations.

All this in place would lead to good quality reports that the public can rely upon—and with confidence, use the information for their respective purposes.

Best practices

Integral to our corporate governance are best practices in risk management categorized into managing the approval process and managing the engagement.

In managing the approval process, we have guidelines based on PwC global standards on: our acceptance and continuance process, independence, conflict of interest, and professional risks.

Inquiries

In our acceptance and continuance process, we conduct an inquiry about the prospective client, the owners, management, their governance practices, reliability of their records and documents, financial reporting practices and independence.

Even existing clients are evaluated annually for purposes of the recurring audit engagements.

We have a global online network that lists all audit clients worldwide, for whom no other office in the world can be permitted to render non-audit services. The system automatically identifies investments in securities that might impair the auditor's independence, and notifies individuals when to dispose of any investment.

Stock divestment

The divestment of stocks applies to all partners and staff, their spouses and dependents. A classic example is the PLDT preferred shares related to telephone subscriptions that we had to divest when PLDT became our client.

The latest in our independence best practice is the Global Independence Compliance Program (GICP). As head of the Philippine Firm, I signed an undertaking that we will comply with the provisions of GICP and implement all independence processes and controls. Inclusive in this commitment is investment in technology that is required to participate in the program and imposition of sanctions to partners and staff for violations of the independence rules.

As a policy, we do not accept or continue an engagement if there is likely to be a conflict of interest between the firm and the client, or prospective client. We also do not allow our partners and staff to accept any directorship, executive appointment, or position of influence, such as an ex-oficio position, in any client company.

The other best practice that we have adopted even before corporate governance became a byword is in managing our client engagements.

We begin with the organization of our audit engagement team composed of the engagement lead partner and staff with the necessary skills and experiences.

For large and sensitive audit engagements, we also require the participation of a client relationship partner, concurring review partner, and the firm's risk management partner.

The engagement team draws support from our industry experts and the technical services group.

I must add that before the new SEC rule on rotation of partners, we have been rotating our engagement partners every seven years. With the new rule, we will now be rotating them every five years.

At the engagement level, the engagement partner has autonomy over the audit and binds the partnership on the audit report that he or she signs off in the name of the firm.

However, if there are difficult and contentious accounting or auditing issues that he cannot resolve, he would elevate the matter to the technical panel consisting of the engagement partner, the line of service partner, the risk management partner, and the senior partner.

The technical panel deliberates and adopts a firm position, which at this point the engagement partner takes as his own.

Our technical services group conducts random pre-issuance reviews on the audit reports.

Additionally, our global standards require that we have periodic quality assurance reviews on selected clients, usually done every three years.

In August, a team of partners and senior managers from various PwC offices in North America and Asia-Pacific completed the latest quality assurance review for the Philippines.

We require our partners and staff to submit annually a confidentiality confirmation in respect of client and non-client information.

Good corporate governance is an active process that does not stop with the audited financial statements. It goes far beyond numbers. It spans managing people, their competencies, processes, technology, brand and reputation.

(The author is chair and senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co./PriceWaterhouseCoopers. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

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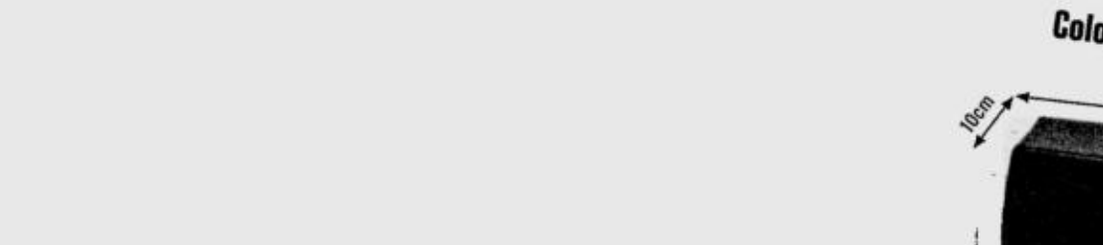
From Paper to Digital in Seconds

Meet Canon's little marvel that takes up less than 5% of your work space but answers 100% of your scanning needs. Dedicated for counter-top use, its sleek dimension fits easily on office counters and even home offices.

Small but, with one of the highest scanning speeds and optical resolutions among workgroup scanners, Canon's DR-2080C is worth its weight in gold. In fact, if your prime considerations are space, price and performance, Canon DR-2080C definitely measures up in every way.

Other production scanner models:



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A3 monochrome

DR-5020/5080C
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Premium rates for natural perils to rise next year

By Reynaldo A. de Dios
Contributor

CORPORATE insurance buyers should be prepared for costlier premium rates specifically for coverage protection against the risks of natural perils (earthquake and typhoon).

This was the message delivered by major global reinsurers during the recent 21st conference of the east Asia Insurance Congress (EAIC) held in Tokyo, Japan.

The conference was attended by over 1100 delegates from all over the world including 61 from the Philippines headed by Jose Halili Co of Seaboard Eastern Assurance Company who was the immediate past president of the EAIC.

Excluding natural perils

Top reinsurers have manifested their stand of excluding natural perils reinsurance protection in the renewal of proportional treaty contracts with insurance companies who deal directly with the insuring public.

The rationale for this decision is that the premium rates for these covers have been under-priced over the years due to intense and irrational competition.

Also losses sustained were then supported by investment income which in today's environment have now become insufficient.

Shrinking capacity

Furthermore, worldwide reinsurance capacity has shrunk due to the reduced net worth of many reinsurers whose investment portfolios have turned sour.

Reinsurers therefore are constrained to underwrite on basic principles and will institute on renewal of existing contracts in 2003 restrictive conditions.

These conditions include higher premium rates for natural perils and increased sharing of claims by the insurance companies and their clients by requiring higher deductibles for each and every loss incurred.

In disaster-prone countries of Southeast Asia, the Philippines and Indonesia were mentioned specifically by the major reinsurers who are reluctant to provide proportional reinsurance for catastrophe risks in the Asian Markets.

The reluctance comes from difficulty in controlling a reinsurer's exposures.

Purchasing contracts

Instead, insurance companies will have to protect their exposures to natural perils by purchasing excess of loss reinsurance contracts which will be much more costlier on their part.

The impact of these reinsurance developments will be felt mostly by corporate entities that own large industrial plants, high rise commercial buildings and shopping malls. These include multi-storied residential condominiums as premium rates for earthquake and typhoon are expected to rise by a minimum 100 percent on renewals which will have to be passed on to the insuring public.

What are the available alternatives?

The corporate buyers may either self-insure the risks of natural perils if their creditor financial institutions will allow.

They can also reduce the rates by accepting increased self-insurance limits or deductibles.

Financial strength

The financial strength and security of the reinsurers must now be a concern of corporate insurance buyers.

They should be assured by insurance companies, through their brokers or professional agents servicing the accounts, that their reinsurers have satisfactory ratings from reputable international ratings agencies such as Standard & Poor's and A.M. Best.

This however is not a 100-percent guarantee as we're living in a fast changing and volatile financial world.

(The author is a risk and insurance management consultant.)

MOVEMENTS

Eastern has new VP

EASTERN Telecommunications Philippins Inc. recently appointed Ma. Isabel R. Bales as head of its HR and administration divisions.

As VP for HR and Admin, Bales is tasked to preserve and reinforce a culture of excellence and professionalism in the company.

Her expertise in the HR disciplines of strategic planning, training, recruitment, compensation and benefits, and organizational development bodes well for Eastern Telecom as it gears up for its people for new challenges in the telecommunications and IT industries.

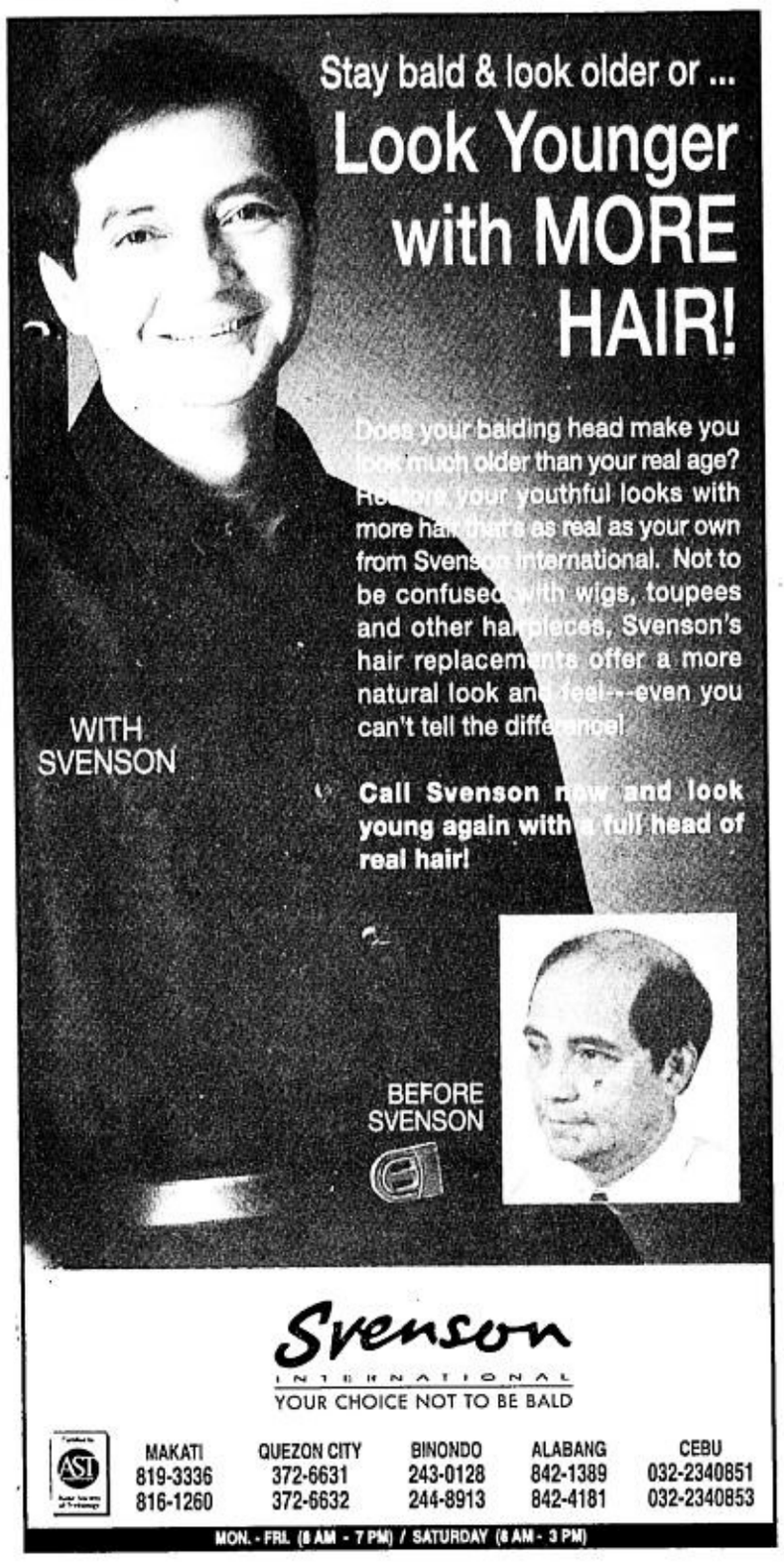
Prior to joining Easter Telecom, Isabel was regional HR manager for Deloitte Consulting , a global management consulting firm where she led the HR Shared Services group covering Korea and Southeast Asia.

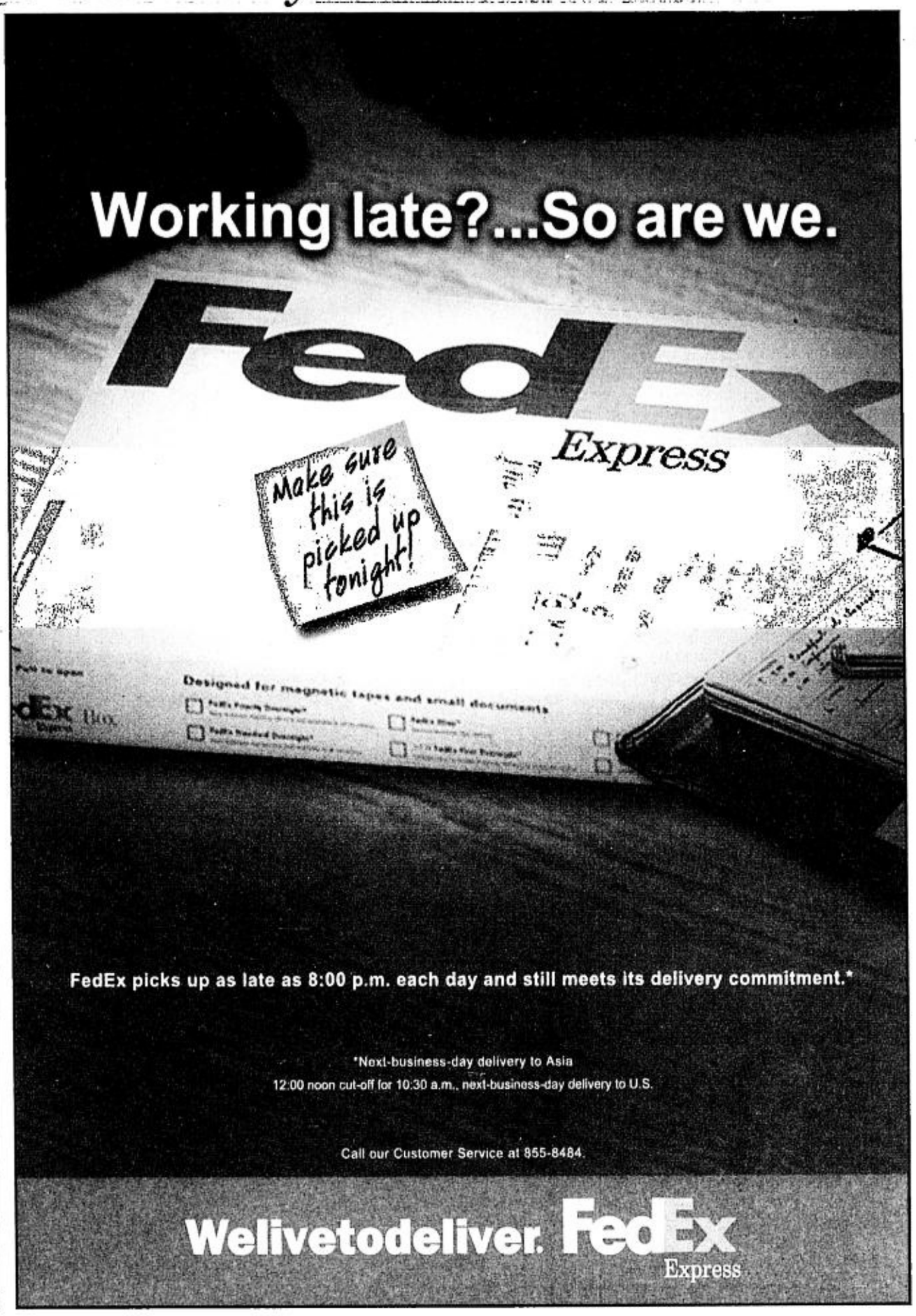
She was also invovled in the implementation of various global HR programs and initiatives for all DC offices in Asia Pacific and Africa.

An HR practitioner for the last 15 years, her professional history includes stints with Bayer Philippines, Caltex and Digital Equipment Filipinas Inc., now Compaq/HP.

Bales is a psychology and business management graduate of De La Salle University.

BALES is tasked to preserve a culture of excellence in the company.





Congratulations to the winners of the 10 tickets to the 2003 Formula 1 Grand Prix in Melbourne, Australia.

Imagine, 10 lucky Pinoys are going to Australia to watch the very first 2003 F1 race ! They'll see Michael Schumacher and his Shell Ferrari Team go wheel to wheel with the best F1 drivers in the world live.

TEN (10) WINNERS OF 2003 FORMULA 1 TICKETS:

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Shell Ferrari Graze n' Race

Congratulations also to all the winners of the 4,000 authentic Ferrari items nationwide. And of course, all the motorists who joined the promo!

All winners will be notified via telephone and/or telegram. In claiming the prize, simply present the telegram and a valid ID.

Per DTI -NCR Permit No. 3608, Series of 2002.

Ayala to create residential getaway in the south

GREEN was the color of the night as lovers of life, nature and leisure trooped to the ballroom of the Manila Peninsula for the launch of Ayala Greenfield Estates Golf and Leisure Club, a recreational amenity for residents of the community in Calamba, Laguna.

The development is being envisioned as a residential getaway south of Metro Manila.

Executives of Ayala Land Inc. and Greenfield Development Corp. gave the guests a sampling of what is to come: an all-weather golf course designed by Robert Trent Jones Jr. and a host of relaxation and recreation facilities for the enjoyment of the whole family.

Ayala Land chair Fernando Zobel de Ayala said the golf course, which will embrace the base of one of the prominent hills in Ayala Greenfield Estates, will call for thoughtful and accurate shotmaking, but will be fun and accessible to the average golfer.

He said that the 500-hectare joint venture with Greenfield Development Corp. offers a most beautiful rolling terrain with a cool climate, plus amenities "designed to give utmost comfort to people who have become increasingly selective nowadays."

The Ayala Greenfield Leisure Club will include a spa and wellness center, a swimming pool, badminton and bowling facilities, a food and beverage counter, and a separate clubhouse.

Greenfield Development Corp. CEO Joselito Campos is optimistic the community that will arise will be a dynamic one, but he points out that "ultimately, it will be the people living in it who will shape the quality of life there."

Development of the course will begin early next year and is expected to be completed in two years.

Residents are entitled to own a share of the golf and leisure club for every lot owned.

With an activation fee, they can enjoy golfing privileges at Ayala Greenfield Estates.

In a video interview, designer Rober Trent Jones Jr. told the audience about his vision of a golf course that combines "environmental legacy and environmental stewardship." Jones is known in the industry as the "father of environmental golf course design" for creating golf courses that harmonize with their surroundings.

His company has built golf courses that serve as sanctuaries for endangered birds. He has also worked for the restoration of sand dunes and reestablishment of native plants at Spanish Bay, the preservation of Mayan temples at Cancun, and the protection of ancient burial sites and temples in Hawaii.

ALI SVP Tristan dela Rosa; AVP Vernon Gamboa, assistant sales manager Amir Precilla and property specialist Sonny Ramada.

ALI chair Fernando Zobel.

ALI VP Marivic Anonuevo with Fernando Zobel and ALI division manager Amy Y. Raymundo.

JOSELITO Campos, CEO Greenfield Development

Bank's outlook brighter with new management thrust

FOUR MONTHS after the signing of the memorandum of agreement between the Lucio Tan group and the government on May 3, 2002, the outlook for PNB's early recovery is getting brighter as the initiatives of the new management team at the helm start to bear fruit.

PNB has beefed up its management team with top-caliber veterans from the industry, which include former leaders from Deutsche Bank, Citibank and leading local banks.

These include executive vice presidents Federico Cadiz Jr. for asset management and asset sales, Anthony Q. Chua for global operations, Omar Byron T. Mier, EVP and chief credit officer, and Carmen G. Huang as chief financial officer; first senior vice presidents Michael O. de Jesus for corporate banking, Ismael R. Sandig for domestic banking; and Mr. Renato J. Fernandez, corporate secretary.

With the appointment of key people to lead the bank's key business units, Tan projects a more sustainable improvement in the bank's operations. Organizationally, the thrust is toward transforming the bank

BANK'S/ C7

RP's int'l board of advisers holds secret meets with GMA

From page C1

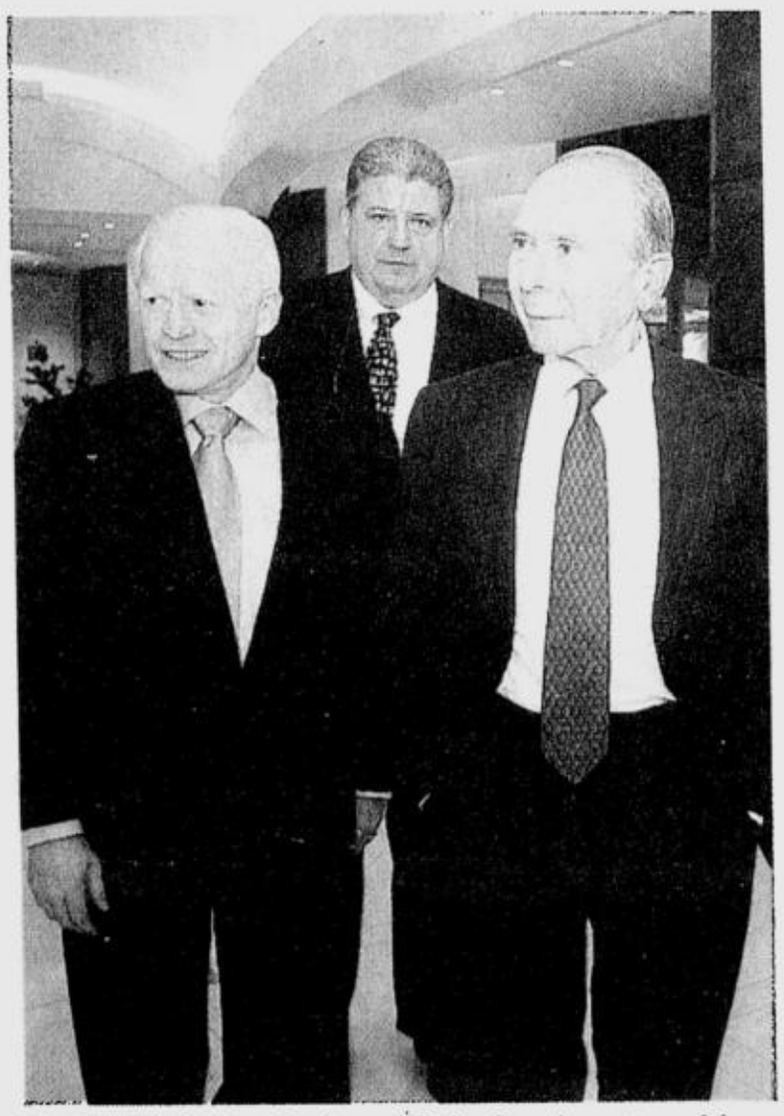
chairman of Li & Fung Group; Maurice Greenberg, chairman and CEO of American International Group.

Andrea Jung; chairperson and CEO of Avon Products; Paul Keating, former prime minister of Australia; Minoru Makihara, chairman of Mitsubishi; Masanobu Suzuki, president and CEO of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone; Laura Tyson, dean of the London Business School; and Dr. Stephen Zuellig, chairman of the Zuellig Group.

The names themselves may sound unfamiliar, but their companies and entities are definitely world-famous and awe-inspiring. The international magnates and the country's local economic managers were raving about the Taipan's menu and calm ambience and the staff's quiet, polite and efficient service.

ENDIKA Aboitiz, Vince Perez, Tower Club founding board of governor vice chair Jose L. Cuisia Jr., Xabier de Irala Estevez and Dr. Kurt Lanic

CCA Philippines president Arthur Lopez with former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating



JOSE L. Cuisia Jr. gives Maurice and Corine Greenberg a tour of the Tower Club.

CESAR Buenaventura, Manny Pangilinan and O.V. Espiritu

XABIER de Irala, Sen. Edgardo Angara and Endika Aboitiz

MR. and Mrs. Joseph Mussomeli

Driving a car fueled by air?

PARIS—Visionary 19th century French writer Jules Verne once described a fantastical future world where cars would run on air.

He may not have been totally wrong.

Inventor, car enthusiast and environmentalist Guy Negre has built a car powered by compressed air and hopes it will be chuffing along roads across the world within the next few years.

Inside Negre's car, cold air compressed in tanks to 300 times atmospheric pressure is heated and fed into the cylinders of a piston engine.

No combustion takes place, so there is no pollution. In fact, says Negre, the air from the exhaust pipe is cleaner than the air that goes in, thanks to an internal filter.

The car can be refilled with air at home using an electric compressor and Negre hopes that, one day, drivers will be able to recharge the cars in filling stations in three minutes for as little as three dollars.

The air car, which he says will cost 6,800 euros ($6,700), looks a little like Daimler-Chrysler's easy-to-park Smart city car, with one row of seats wide enough for three and a curved, pod-like front end.

"We needed an alternative to the gas-guzzling norm so I decided to make one," the former Formula 1 racing engineer told Reuters at the Paris motor show, where his toy-like run-around nestled among the latest sports cars.

Too good to be true?

Negre, who has been working on the car for 10 years, admits it sounds too good to be true. But he says scores of industry insiders who first scoffed at his invention had been sidling up to his stand for a closer look.

Some point out that, although the car itself pumps out no pollutants, the electricity needed to compress the air still comes from power stations that spew fumes or leave behind hazardous nuclear waste.

Another big obstacle to making electric cars commercially is that, despite decades of research, they still need refueling far more often than conventional petrol models. Some experts say there is no reason why the "air car" should be any different.

"The concept of a car driven by air is not totally ridiculous," said John Wormald at the Autopolis consultancy, adding that air-powered locomotives were used to help dig Alpine railway tunnels to avoid pumping out toxic fumes.

"But as with all these wonderful ideas, the problem is how much energy density can you fit into a tank," Wormald said. "The car's range will likely be small and I can't see it taking off." Negre says his CityCAT car runs for a maximum of around 10 hours at low speed before it needs refueling. He insists this is not a problem as drivers will be able to recharge at home.

Wormald said that would be impossible for anyone without a private garage or a space in a parking lot.

Sceptics might wonder whether the big oil firms will be keen to equip their filling stations with a new technology that spurns petrol for air.

Town, not country

Negre admitted that the CityCAT—which he says has a top speed of around 110 km an hour—will work only as a city car and agrees he will probably not persuade motoring enthusiasts to give up their Mercedes and BMW speed machines just yet.

"It's not a real alternative to the standard car," he said.

"It's an urban vehicle that we will market mainly as a second car, targeting mainly women who tend to go for smaller vehicles that they use for short distances." Wormald reckons the business model is flawed.

"The problem is that people just don't want to buy cars they can only use to drive round towns. They might not bomb off to the country every weekend but they like to know that they can if they want," he said.

But Negre, who describes himself as a motorist who also cares about the state of the planet, rather than an all-out environmentalist, insists the air-powered car is the first viable alternative to conventional petrol-powered vehicles.

"I'm a firm believer that the car means freedom and people will not give up freedom, no matter what it's doing to the environment," he said. "So the only way to save the planet is to come up with a car that doesn't wreck it." Conventional vehicles running on fossil fuels still emit a tenth of the man-made carbon dioxide which has been blamed for abnormal climate patterns and a host of natural disasters.

Rather than selling the cars directly, Negre's company Motor Development International offers investors a factory package containing the machinery needed to build the cars.

"We aim to have the first CAT on the road by mid-2003, with the first on sale toward the end of 2004," said Negre.

He said MDI had already sold 32 of the small factories and was hoping to swell the total to 300 in the next few years. Each factory would produce 4,000 cars a year.

"The technology is all there," Negre said. "Now all we need is time and money to get the factories up and running." *Reuters*

Investors look for coping tactics in New York money conference

NEW YORK—Bob Dalton, a retired consultant from New Jersey, roamed around a Manhattan conference aimed at individual investors on Thursday, looking for ideas on where to park his money.

Real estate investments are one interesting possibility, Dalton said, while taking a break from collecting hand-outs and attending seminars at the New York Money Show. The four-day investment extravaganza features talks by financial gurus on topics such as finding the best mutual funds, a primer on bonds, and navigating the complex world of options trading.

But in the short term at least, the 59-year-old Dalton is reluctant to put more money in stocks. "Trading stocks now is like trading baseball cards," he said. "How can you figure out what's the value of a stock right now?"

For Dalton and other Money Show attendees at a Hilton hotel in Manhattan, the mood wasn't so much about making money, but hanging on to it amid the 2-1/2-year-long bear market.

A few years ago, the Money Show—as the name suggests—drew throngs of people looking for hot stock tips and ways to post big gains in the market. Those types of seminars are still a part of the trade show, but many investors said they were there because they wanted to find new ways to invest safely.

Back in the 1990s, "everyone was optimistic—'Keep buying, you'll never regret it,'" was the attitude, said Ken Kaplan, 64, adding that he's been attending Money Show conferences for years.

"Now, the theme of this Money Show is 'how to cope,'" said Kaplan, who lives in Seminole, Florida.

The Money Show, run by conference organizer InterShow, is being held in New York for the first time since 1983, a nod to the city's resilience following last year's attacks on the World Trade Center, organizers said.

Other Money Shows are held throughout the year in Las Vegas and other cities. Besides sitting in on seminars, attendees can wander through the busy exhibit hall, picking up investment materials and books, as well as promotional items such as coffee mugs and magnets from a variety of financial services firms and other companies.

The gathering, which runs through Saturday, is expected to draw about 8,000 individual investors in total.

That's down from about 11,000 at other Money Shows before the stock market downturn, said Charles Githler, chair of Sarasota, Florida-based InterShow. But it's still a strong turnout given the market conditions, he said.

"Investors are searching for answers," he said. "They are still committed to a long-term growth strategy." Speakers include money managers, Wall Street strategists and financial newsletter writers, many of whom addressed investor concerns about the falling stock market. A seminar by financial safety advocate Martin Weiss, author of "The Ultimate Safe Money Guide," drew a packed audience on Thursday.

Even a recent rally in the market didn't convince a lot of people.

"Right now, the market is going up, but I have a lot of skepticism," said Barbara Pruess, of Bal Harbor, Florida.

Not everyone was pessimistic, though. A luncheon forum featured some well-known market bulls, such as Ralph Acampora, director of technical research at Prudential Securities, and Joe Battipaglia, chief investment officer of Ryan, Beck & Co.

Acampora said he is starting to see a move back into large-company stocks and thinks the broad Standard & Poor's 500 index is poised to rebound.

"I think the S&P 500, in my opinion, is indeed bottoming," Acampora said. "I have not been able to say that for the last year and a half." Most Money Show events are free, although there are premium events such as Thursday's luncheon forum that come with a fee for attendees, who range from novices interested in learning about investing to do-it-yourself traders who have been in the market for years.

The show draws many investors with hefty portfolios. About 70 percent of the attendees at a typical Money Show have portfolios worth at least $500,000, according to the conference organizers. *Reuters*

HK exec calls for common tech platform

HONG Kong Exchange's COO believes that sharing technology through a common trading platform is the route to cost savings.

Frederick Grede, chief operating officer of the Hong Kong Exchange (HKEx), thinks the biggest opportunity for cost savings will be through sharing technology as it works toward a common trading platform. Grede says the European Euronext model—wherein the different exchanges maintain their own regulations, products and services, but share the same technology infrastructure—offers a good example to exchanges in Asia.

Grede believes technology will bring exchanges closer and that the matter is not about one exchange having an advantage over the other. "A common technology infrastructure is something that everyone should be thinking about," Grede says.

HKEx works on a three-pronged strategy of bringing more foreign listings to the exchange, creating bigger liquidity pools and achieving technology savings. Currently, it is looking for possible joint ventures and acquisitions worldwide to push its strategy forward. "We are not looking to make an investment just for the sake of an investment. We are more concerned with the strategic benefits we can get," he says. *The Asian Banker*

People, Events & Products

aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Aries Espinosa, Editor

Indanet's Internet solutions

Indanet Internet, the retail arm of IT company Asiagate Networks Inc., is providing free Internet diagnostics services in order to upgrade the quality of connection of its internet subscribers.

The subscribers' quality of connection is monitored from Indanet's technical center so that users are spared from the hassles of calling customer service to address a particular connection problem.

Since connection quality is constantly monitored, Indanet takes a proactive stance in addressing subscribers' connection problems. Subscribers are contacted to determine possible problem areas, and concrete measures are taken to immediately resolve a problem.

According to Liza de los Reyes, Asiagate chief operating officer, subscribers who often complain of dropped connections attribute the failure to the ISP. While an ISP's connection may indeed contribute to poor quality, there are also several other reasons beyond the responsibility of the ISP for an Internet connection to go bad.

"In our efforts to provide the best user experience, Indanet has gone the extra mile to study the various elements that affect connection quality," De los Reyes said. "Our study reveals that incompatible dial-up configurations, old hardware drivers and poor phone line quality are just some of the factors that affect an Internet connection that are way beyond the control of the ISP. With Indanet, we take the problem of deciphering the causes of Internet-related problems from our customers by directly calling, and providing subscribers with the solutions," she added.

Indanet is first to aggressively offer a free Internet diagnostics program as part of its value-added services such that persistent problem areas are eliminated permanently. Unlike prepaid services, subscribers maximize their value for money by acquiring a reliable, cost-effective Internet solution that offers superior technical care and responsive customer service.

Indanet Internet provides the most customizable Internet services available in the country today. As a full-service ISP, Indanet provides a wide range of digital Internet access products with unique features, related services such as website hosting and design, and local area networking among others, backed by 24-hour technical support.

GLOBE DONATES MEDICINES TO TAWI-TAWI

Globe Telecom recently donated boxes of assorted medicines to the province of Tawi-Tawi intended for Filipinos deported from Sabah, Malaysia. Globe's donation was in response to the 'Operation:Pagbabalik' project of the Congressional Office of Tawi-Tawi lone representative Soraya C. Jaafar and the people of Tawi-Tawi to help the Filipino deportees. Shown are (from left) Globe Telecom public relations head Jones T. Campos, Globe Telecom SVP for corporate and regulatory affairs Rodolfo A. Salalima, Rep. Jaafar and her consultant Vanessa Cia.

MSD DONATES MMR VACCINES

Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSD) recently donated measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccines to the Philippine Foundation for Vaccination Inc. (PFVI) vaccination program. The health mission was organized to provide at-risk population such as healthcare workers, medical students, and adolescents improved vaccine coverage from vaccine-preventable diseases.The vaccines were administered to the medical and nursing students of the University of the Philippines-College of Medicine (shown), healthcare workers and patients of the Philippine General Hospital, St. Luke's Medical Center and Children's Medical Center, as well as students from San Francisco High School and Sto. Cristo Elementary School. "MSD can be reached through customer service call center 878-6338 or toll-free 1-800-1-888-6737 for those outside Metro Manila.

Bedan lawyers honor SC Justice

ASSOCIATE Justice Romeo J. Callejo Sr. of the Supreme Court was honored by the San Beda Law Alumni Association Inc., in cooperation with the San Beda College of Law, on Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m. at a testimonial dinner at the Kalayaan Hall, Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan. Bedan Law alumni attended the event.

Justice Callejo, the fourth Bedan Law alumnus to be named to the Supreme Court, was previously Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals. In 1993, he received the Cayetano Arellano Award for Judicial Excellence. He was also named Outstanding Regional Trial Court Judge of Manila in 1994 during the 423rd anniversary of Manila.

Justice Callejo has been on the faculty of the San Beda College of Law and the Ateneo Law School. He attended the Academy of American and International Law at the University of Texas in Dallas in 1987.

Before he joined the judiciary, Justice Callejo's career highlights included working directly with the late distinguished human rights lawyer Jose W. Diokno as a trial attorney in the latter's law office.

MTV ASIA AWARDS 2003 ANNOUNCED

MTV Asia announces Asia's biggest music event is back, and playing live in Singapore on Jan. 24, 2003. The pan-Asia awards ceremony that recognizes both regional and International talent will once again be witnessed by thousands of fans at the Singapore Indoor Stadium and millions of home viewers across the region. MTV Asia will be presenting 19 awards to recognize and promote the icons of youth culture. Present during the announcement of the 2003 MTV Asia Awards were (top row, from left) MTV VJ Donita Rose, Lim Chwee Seng, director of events marketing of the Singapore Tourism Board, Toshiya Fujikawa, team leader, planning team, advertising group, Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. Ltd., Vincent Socco, GM, marketing planning division, Toyota Motor Asia Pacific Pte Ltd., and MTV VJ Utt. Seated, from left, were Erick Bartolome, group brand manager, marketing directorate, beer division, San Miguel Corp., Frank Brown, president, MTV Networks Asia, and David Flack, SVP, creative and content, MTV Asia and executive producer of MTV Asia Awards 2003.

BITS Clips

Growth in drugstore business

PHARMACY graduates and non-grads should explore the unlimited growth potential of the drugstore business, and learn all the aspects in operating one. The Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) has scheduled its first seminar on Operating and Managing a Drugstore Enterprise on Nov. 4 and 5, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with a drugstore counselor and pharmaceutical adviser as resource person. Topics include the successful management of the drugstore business, sales and marketing aspects, procedures and documents, manpower requirements, ROI and investment requirements. For inquiries, call TLRC at 633-5709 and 633-6728 or at 637-4108 to 12 local 605. Visit its offices at Unit 805, 8th floor CityState Centre Building, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City.

Health food fair in Ayala

HEALTH Food & Herb Products Inc. will hold the Health Food Fair at the Park Square 1, Activity Area, Ayala Center Makati from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. from Nov. 1 to 14. Several activities have been lined up, such as product samplings, healing sessions, health consultations, free body fat analysis, iridology, check-up, and blind masseur sessions. The public may also itself of big discounts on all best natural products from Health Food & Herb Products Inc. For more information, call 894-2386, 894-2387, and 892-4026.

Organizational management talk

THE UNIVERSITY of Western Australia (UWA), in association with the Esteban School of Makati, successfully launched its inaugural Master of Business Administration (MBA) batch Sept. 26. Associate director Rey Fells flew in from Australia to welcome the first batch of students, while professor Chris Perryer from UWA facilitated the Management of Organizations course. UWA was founded in 1913 and is recognized as a leading research university worldwide. This Nov. 5, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Perryer will conduct an informative talk about "Knowledge Management or Management Knowledge—Which Path Leads to Organizational Effectiveness". The venue will be at the 6th floor of the Oakwood Premier, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. For inquiries, call 844-2812 or 887-6390/91, or e-mail esteban@i-next.net.

HAPPY MEALS, HAPPY TIMES, HAPPY EMPLOYEES

McDonald's Philippines recently awarded special plaques of appreciation to personnel marking milestones with the company. Shown are McDonald's Philippines President George T. Yang (center) with awardeess (from left), Nilo Manigbas, operations consultant (10 years), Hector Jaraza, HR manager (5 years), Irma Bonoan, accounting manager (20 years), and Rodolfo Gramata, associate accountant (10 years).

Nursing opportunities in the US

THE NATIONAL Nephrology Associates invites all interested applicants to its Career Fair on Wednesday, Nov. 13, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Balitaw Drawing Room of the Hyatt Regency Manila and at the Baltic Room of the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel in Lahug, Cebu, and become a prospective direct hire.

Learn about the Associates' extensive orientation process, 10 weeks of paid training, comprehensive benefit package, competitive salary structure and the opportunity for advancement.

NNA will pay immigration expenses, airfare to the United States and temporary housing for 90 days or until permanent housing is established. No agency fees will be charged.

Employment application will be completed at the Career Fair, and interviews will be scheduled. Dialysis, critical care or medical/surgical experience is preferred.

The only requirement to attend the Career Fair is that applicants should be licensed registered nurses. Bring resumes, and if CGFNS, TOEFL, or TSE has been completed, bring copies. A free gift awaits attendees.

NNA clinics are located in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Missouri, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Panssylvania, Rhode Island and Ohio.

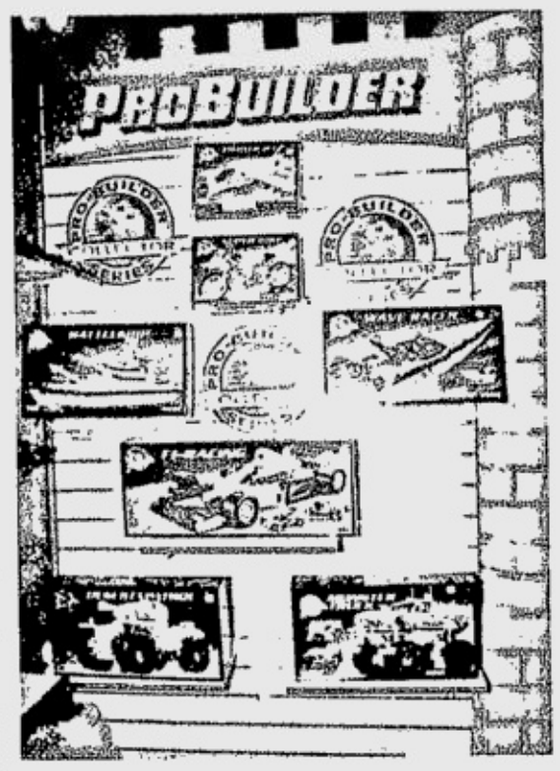
For those who cannot attend but are still intent on scheduling an interview, call NNA's Philippine representative Mardel International Management and Services Inc at 842-7744 to 46, 851-9015, 852-6248.

RELIANCE SURETY & INSURANCE AT 50

Reliance Surety & Insurance Co. Inc. celebrated 50 years of providing quality service to the insuring public with a lunch reception at the Century Seafood Restaurant Aug. 17. Gracing the occasion were Insurance Commissioner Eduardo T. Malinis and Deputy Insurance Commissioner Vida T. Chiong. As a reputable insurer, the company has proven its financial stability and reliability to generations of policyholders. It is a provider of fire and engineering, motor car, accident and health, marine cargo and liability insurance as well as surety bonds. Shown, from left, are VP for operations Andrew Co, board chair Co Keng Koc, Malinis, president Mary Co, Chiong, and senior vice president Soledad Gue.

Product FILES

Create your Megabloks 'war movie'



EVERY child dreams of heroes and battle stuff, but when the imagination flexes beyond this dream, Megabloks creative play paves the way for this dream's becoming. You may never know what kind of talent can be enhanced from your child until you let him create and develop. Creativity is the best seat for talent, and Megabloks stirs your child to be the Steven Spielberg of his generation as he creates his own "movie epic" via the limitless Megabloks Pro-Builders. If you let him have his Megabloks now, he can start his "movie" rolling through the Ultimate Pro-Builder Megabloks King Challenge.

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Corporate restructuring: The Philippine experience

COMMON business sense dictates that tough times necessitate tough measures. Currently, with local companies reeling from one economic blow to another, there is a mad scramble to adopt practical measures that will arrest this downtrend and prevent a catastrophic situation. One of the most frequently cited yet grossly misunderstood among the measures currently utilized is restructuring.

Often perceived as downsizing and retrenching, restructuring is actually an action taken by management to reorganize the business or alter the basic fabric of the organization. Although it commonly includes downsizing the workforce, other change initiatives like automation or consolidation of tasks, reallocation of resources, acquisition or merger with another company, elimination of structural layers and establishment of a shared service center can be considered part of the restructuring process.

Currently, Philippine companies are beginning to show signs of willingness to be less rigid in the way they conduct business. These companies exhibit an acceptable degree of open-mindedness to accept change in company culture, make business assumption and intensify customer quality focus. Coupled with the fact that majority of company restructuring operations are moving its focus from global/regional to local scale, Watson Wyatt Worldwide saw the need to once again conduct a survey on corporate restructuring among thirty-eight executive respondents representing different companies in the Philippines. The survey shows that cost containment, the desire to grow and long-term financial performance are the most significant restructuring motivations.

As in the previous years, reorganization is expected to remain the biggest trigger of restructuring activities as companies aim to flatten their structures and improve the alignment of the internal functions or business units. Furthermore, downsizing which came second last year now slid to the third position. This may indicate that companies are rethinking their strategies—they may have come to realize that trimming labor costs comes with the risk of losing critical human capital needed for the business' competitive advantage.

In the course of helping employees who need to cope with unplanned early retirement, a majority of them stated that separation benefits and one-on-one counseling are the most utilized practices in supporting early retirement windows. Severance benefit, which is typically paid in lump sum, ranges from one to three months' final salary per year of service, with one month's pay per year of service being the most common.

Unfortunately, most respondents were not satisfied with their restructuring plans. Poor employee communication efforts, wrong solution/approach and employee resistance to change are the typical barriers to restructuring success. Companies have begun to recognize this as evidenced by the increasing trend in involving middle-line management, aside from Top Management and HR executives in restructuring planning.

Although not many companies achieved their restructuring goal of reducing cost and expenses, most were able to improve communications, increase shareholder return on investment and increase cash flow and profitability. Management must recognize that restructuring can create unique possibilities and bring about positive impact on areas such as quality/customer service and workforce competence if changes are implemented in the most efficient and effective manner to minimize adverse impact on climate/morale and the ability to retain high quality employees. In the end, restructuring will remain an important tool that will provide companies with the much-needed change.

This is the second year that Watson Wyatt has studied corporate restructuring. It provides an in-depth look at management practices applied by leading companies in relation to their restructuring activities. It was designed to provide information that can support efforts to improve and re-engineer business strategies, policies and systems.

Watson Wyatt is a multinational consulting company that specializes in benefits, human capital, HR technologies, insurance and investments.

Bank's outlook brighter with new management thrust

From page C4

CADIZ

CHUA

MIER

HUANG

FROM left: De Jesus, Sandig and Fernandez

into a more dynamic marketing-oriented and sales organization.

The new head of the asset management sector is transforming the bank's asset management from a mere custodian of acquired assets to a highly aggressive business unit that is capable of creating incremental values on foreclosed assets in preparation for their disposal.

Cadiz is pursuing a two-pronged approach in managing the bank's over P25 billion Ropoa portfolio: one, treat assets with income generating potential as business concerns; and the other is to maximize yields out of these assets through securitization, joint ventures or development.

Chua initiated quality standards to improve efficiencies in the bank's service delivery chain. Initially, this covers the cash management, clearing, and loans administration divisions. This is expected to cascade to the frontlines where the bank's customers will be able to experience better service from their branches.

On the other hand, Mier is initiating measures to promote a globally risk-rated loan portfolio for the "good bank" side of PNB. His strong background on credit and risk management is expected to ensure effective and responsive credit policies as the bank prepares for loan growth in 2004.

For his part, De Jesus is expected to spearhead the effort to regain stronger foothold in the corporate and business markets by enhancing the bank's relationship banking strategies. His group is also expected to seize opportunities for cross selling of PNB's financial products across industries.

Similarly, the bank's retail banking sector led by EVP Mervyn Encanto and FSVP Sandig, will also undergo a massive overhaul as branches are transformed into PNB's primary sales and service channels for its various products, including those of its subsidiaries.

The new management team acknowledges that the bank's major strengths are its extensive distribution network comprising 324 domestic branches and 81 overseas branches and remittance centers, and the strong PNB brand.

To pave the way for the streamlining of the bank's organizational resources toward sharper focus on the customer, management has likewise initiated morale-rebuilding programs to promote efficiency and dedication to service quality by its entire workforce.

PNB's total workforce has been reduced by some 1,200 since 2000.

The bank has just completed its strategic planning exercise involving 54 participants from senior management and members of the board of directors and board of advisors.

Earlier, Moody's upgraded PNB's debt and deposit ratings to stable with the new team initiating organizational reforms in the bank. Moody's raised the bank's rating for long-term foreign currency bonds from Ba3 to Ba1 and the rating for long-term domestic currency deposits from Ba3 to Baa3.

The bank has substantially reduced its net loss at P1.5 billion for the third quarter of the year, or a 72-percent improvement compared to last year's P5.3 billion for the same period, and way below the projected net loss range of P2.9 billion to P3.1 billion for its year-end 2002 operations.

Significant improvements were also posted in its cost reduction by P593 million in other expenses; non-performing loans (NPLs) down by P2.3 billion, or a reduction of 4.5 percent, from P51.2 billion to P48.9 billion for the same period last year; negative net interest margin, which now stands at only P19 million; P4.8 billion growth in the volume of low-cost current and savings account deposits (Casa) and increased service charges, fees and commissions, by P133 million or 15 percent from P917 million last year to P1.1 billion this year.

Tan credits PNB's positive third quarter operating results to the hardworking, highly qualified directors of the bank and its dedicated officers and employees who responded to the challenge with renewed energy and direction.

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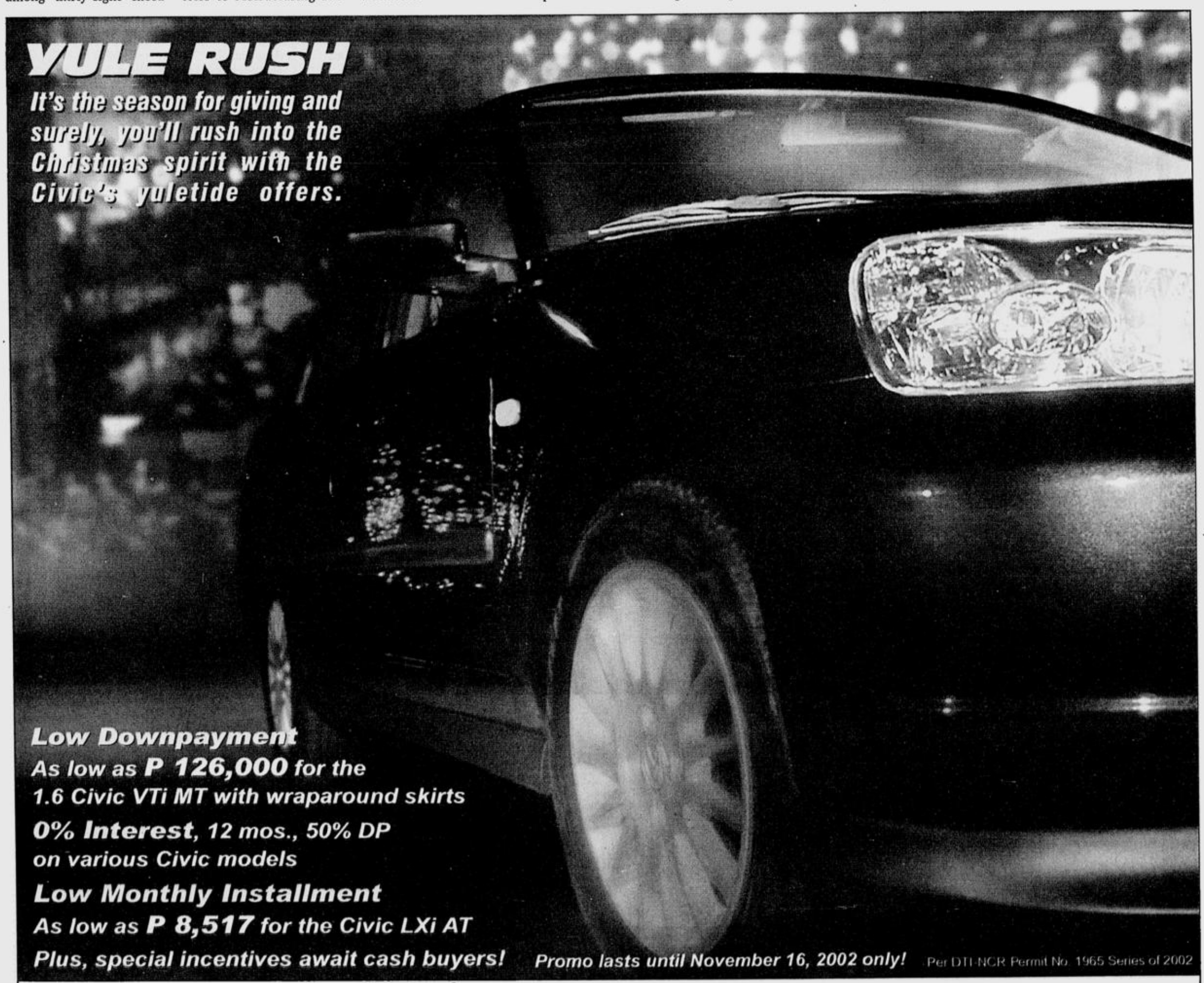

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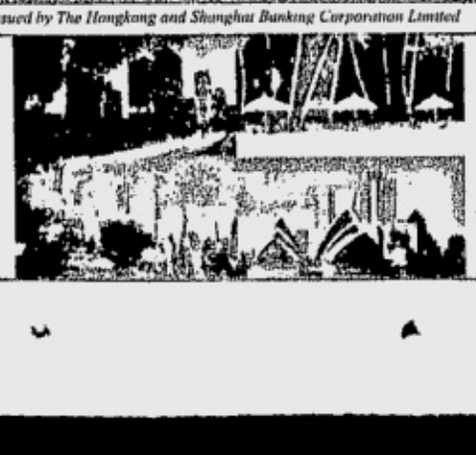

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For BTI-NCR Permit # 3345. Series of 2002

Lea Salonga returns to Broadway in triumph

Text and photos by Leah Salterio

BROADWAY MARQUEE. Lea Salonga's name gets prominent solo billing at Virginia Theater.

IT WAS a glittering gala for the revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical "Flower Drum Song," which debuted on Broadway on Oct. 17.

It was also a big night for Lea Salonga, who returned to Broadway where she first conquered international audiences in "Miss Saigon" more than a decade ago.

She is undoubtedly a Broadway star. Her name on the marquee of Virginia Theater ranks alongside other big-name artists starring in other Broadway musicals, such as Vanessa Williams in "Into the Woods," Molly Ringwald in "Cabaret," Anne Heche in "Proof," Edward Norton in "Burn This," Kathleen Turner and Jason Biggs in "The Graduate," Stanley Tucci in "Frankie and Johnny," and Michael Crawford (the original lead in "Phantom of the Opera") in the new musical "Dance of the Vampires."

The huge billboard of "Flower Drum Song" in Times Square shows Lea and her Filipino leading man Jose Llana, although it was only Lea's name that was prominently displayed.

An hour before the gala performance, Lea joined the entire Asian cast of the musical at the lobby of Virginia Theater on West 52nd Street, where "Flower Drum Song" will run for the next 10 months.

Escorted by her Los Angeles-based fiancé Robert Chien, who flew in for the gala night, Lea was radiant in a red cheongsam blouse and black pants. She later changed to her trademark Mao suit for her opening number in the musical, when she sang "A Hundred Million Miracles" while holding the flower drum.

The 'Miss Saigon' star proves she is still a force to reckon with on Broadway

Ambitious revival

The ambitious revival was given a new book by award-winning Asian-American playwright David Henry Hwang, who won a Tony for "M. Butterfly." Hwang was also among the celebrity guests on

LEA/ p.D4

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'Symphonic Winds':

The art of breathing music

By Allan Pastrana
Contributor

THE UST Symphony Band is representing the Philippines in the fourth Asian Symphonic Band Competition, at the Mahisorn Hall, Bangkok, from Oct. 31 until today. The festival is in honor of King Bhumibol Adulyadej and the 220th Anniversary of the Thai capital city. It is hosted by the Tourism Authority of Thailand in collaboration with Mahidol University's College of Music.

Before the Thai sojourn, the Symphony Band, one of the most outstanding groups of musicians performing under the auspices of the Pontifical University of Sto. Tomas, gave a farewell concert at the Philamlife Auditorium. Together with guest artists, the group treated the audience to a night of vibrant sonority and patriotic revelry, dubbed as "Symphonic Winds."

The first half of the program started off with Alfred Reed's "A Festival Overture," a short yet majestic piece punctuated by occasional virtuosic passages. The band blared a polished and resonant beginning, topping it off with a clear, vibrant finish that was memorable, if not perfect. It was followed by an equally engaging performance of James Swearingen's "Sea Gate Overture," which was significantly premiered by the Ohio All-State Band in the annual convention of the Ohio Music Educators Association in 1988. The UST band's take on this grand overture tried to hew close to its finely wielded Teutonic character (if only for the lack of a more appropriate term to refer to Wagner), moving but always tempered with the concomitant qualities of "good" music.

The E.F. Goldman classic "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp" for bassoon and orchestra was a charming variation from the bustling first half of 20th-century New York. The UST Symphony Band, together with Severino Ramirez as bassoon soloist, amused and afforded everyone a joyous break for reminiscing the "good old days" of band music.

The band then performed "Blue Day" and "The Hunter" by Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej. There were entrances that were quite indecisive, but the flaws were not irreparable, needing few adjustments here and there. "The Symphonic Marches," a perennial choice among symphonic bands, ended the first part with the typical climactic resonance of a John Williams masterpiece.

Musical well-spring

Under the baton of Arnel Feliciano, the UST Symphony Band was a well-spring of promising musicians, with an impressive and rare attention to detail and sound production. His conducting was a commendable mixture of exuberance and precision. He knew exactly where to keep it down like a veil of whisper and where to blast it off into an almost carelessly beautiful abandon.

> Now in Thailand to perform for King Bhumibol, the UST Symphony Band has a unique sonority that reverberates with an emotion that is not overly indulgent but rather tempered yet regal

The last half of the program took off with an enticing wave of patriotism beginning with "Veteranos de la Revolucion," by UST Symphony Orchestra conductor Herminigildo Ranera, who would be at the helm for the rest of the concert and eventually claim his own share of "firm ground." Using folk idioms, the piece was a series of jovial movements that sounded like "sentimental constructs," revolving around the experiences of war veterans as they were signaled or introduced by heavy drum beats or traditional military "taps," creating an overall atmosphere that was largely ironic, surreal and elegiac.

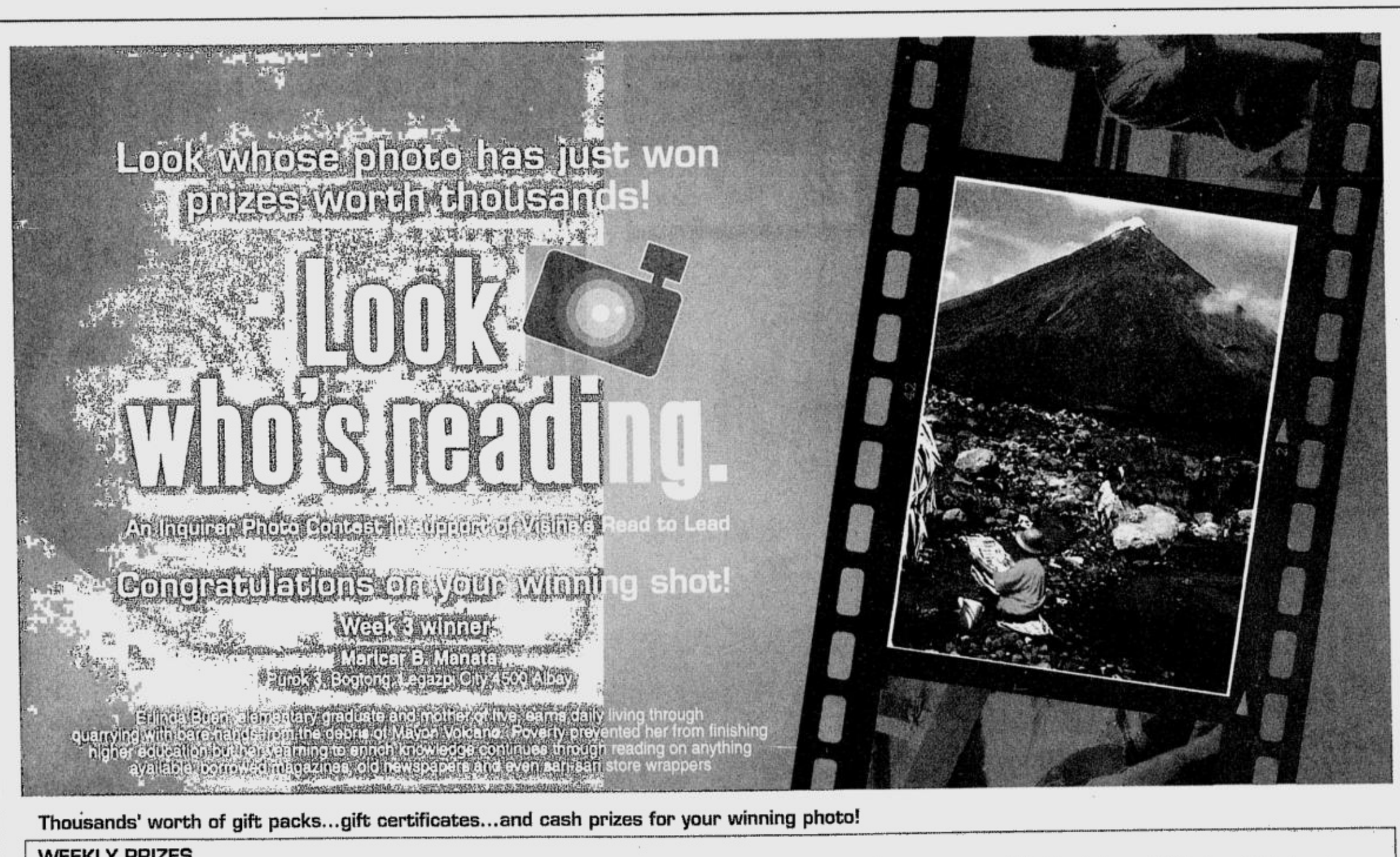
Then the band, together with Jay Ian de la Cruz, Ciara Sotto and Jolilorlyn Quitain, hymned two entrancing duets by Fr. Manuel Maramba, OSB, the Benedictine composer and faculty member of the UST Conservatory. First was "Bakit Ka Tumingin?," where De la Cruz and Sotto sang of the wistfulness of a first meeting; followed by "Mahalin Mo Ako Sinta," which was performed by De la Cruz and Quitain, breathing life to this song of a sincere wish for boundless love.

Quite notable for its novelty was "Tambalang Awit," originally arranged by Raul Sunico, the dean of the UST Conservatory, and orchestrated by Ranera. This richly textured medley of six traditional folk songs offered a melange of compositional innovations and stylistic fusion. Ranera's orchestration, focused on the parallel melodies of each paired song. The band rendered an energy-driven performance but always with a definitive and detailed reckoning.

Impressive

It was impressive how the concert relied solely on available band repertoire and arrangements like the Nicanor Abelardo Medley and Mga Tugtuging Mike Velarde. Decades ago, in one of, his reviews on the Goldman Band, the great American critic and musician Virgil Thomson commented on the performance of band transcriptions of orchestral works. He expressed a preference for original band compositions, however limited the repertoire was. Personally, I myself would want to experience more of this kind of music, which I believe is at par with the more widely appreciated array of orchestral masterpieces. The band has a unique sonority that reverberates with an emotion that is not overly indulgent but rather tempered yet regal.

Finally, Maestro Lucio San Pedro's "Lahing Kayumanggi" sounded out an affecting patriotic note, appropriately closing the concert. Hearing the UST Symphony Band's rendition, I was reminded of the late Carlos A. Angeles (also a Republic Cultural Heritage Award recipient like the Maestro), who in his poem "Your Speech," ruminated on the pain of being geographically displaced. The music was made more piercing by the seeming sufficiency of language to capture "a spate of bruising memories" or a flood of quick remembrances of idioms, toward a fitting realization that might have been ours that night upon hearing the Maestro's masterpiece: "...touching an old patriotic chord/...the native word/ Hushing the sleepless tide on this alien shore/ Hushing the wild cries drowning in the pool."



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3. Photos must be accompanied by a short caption of not more than 50 words describing the scene depicted in the photo. Entries should also have the sender's name, age, address, telephone number and school/office.
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11. Organizers reserve the right to determine the validity of entries submitted. All entries received become the property of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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CONSUL Evie Costa, French Ambassador Renée Veyret and Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam

VICTORINO Manalo, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa and Portuguese Ambassador Joao da Silva

IVO Carneiro de Sousa and Ambassador Da Silva

CLARA Colesanti

MANDARIN GM Helmut Gaisberger

INDIAN Ambassador Nevrekha Sharma and Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti

BRAZILIAN charge d'affaires Carlos Carvalho and Czech Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky

Affable Saudi ambassador staying on

SAUDI Ambassador **Saleh Al-Ghamdi** re-gretfully announced, during the 70th National Day celebration of Saudi Arabia at the Mandarin Oriental, that he would be leaving us shortly. That was the bad news.

The good news is that the home office may have changed its mind, which made the charming envoy's many friends heave a sigh of relief.

Among those who attended the National Day celebration were former President **Fidel V. Ramos**, French Ambassador **Renée Veyret** and Don **Ado Escudero**, who smiled wistfully when told the news that a garbage dump may soon open 4 km away from the Villa Escudero Resort in Tiaong.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

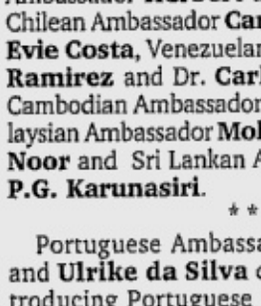
Also present were **Baby Arenas**, who was a head-turner with her sexy Day-Glo colors; **Kessara Arnold**, wife of Netherlands Ambassador **Theo Arnold**; and **Clara Colesanti**, who looked stunning with a necklace of gold and beads. Other guests were **P.L. Lim**, Indian Ambassador **Nevrekha Sharma**, German Ambassador **Herbert** and **Micheline Jess**, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**, Consul **Evie Costa**, Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez** and Dr. **Carlos Ramirez-Faria**, Cambodian Ambassador **EK Seraywath**, Malaysian Ambassador **Mohd Taufik Bin Mohd Noor** and Sri Lankan Ambassador and Mme. **P.G. Karunasiri**.

* * *

Portuguese Ambassador **Joao Caetano** and **Ulrike da Silva** did a yeoman's job introducing Portuguese culture and goods at Rustan's throughout the month of October. Part of the series of cultural events was the opening of "The First Portuguese Maps and Sketches of Southeast Asia and the Philippines," consisting of 50 maps, charts and drawings between 1512 and 1571 by Portuguese pilots and cartographers, at the Metropolitan Museum. The exhibit proved that the Philippines was already known in Europe before 1521. Members of the diplomatic corps and Filipino friends were also introduced to Portuguese cuisine at the Portuguese Food Festival at the Inter-Con. Different ways of preparing the Portuguese national dish, *bacalao*, was also presented.

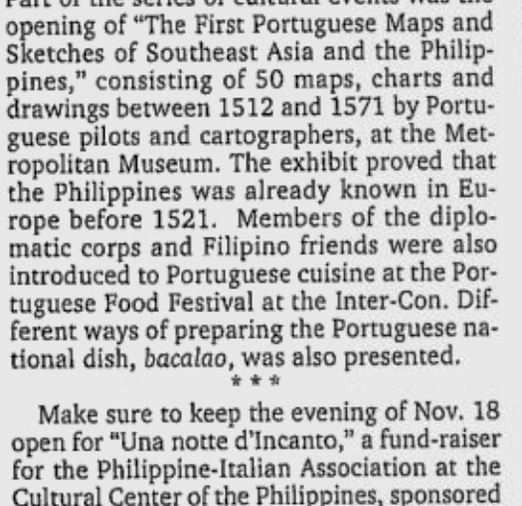
* * *

Make sure to keep the evening of Nov. 18 open for "Una notte d'Incanto," a fund-raiser for the Philippine-Italian Association at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, sponsored by Rustan Marketing Corp. The first part will feature the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Maestro **Ruggero Barbieri**, together with soprano **Camille Lopez** and tenor **Nolyn Cabahug**.

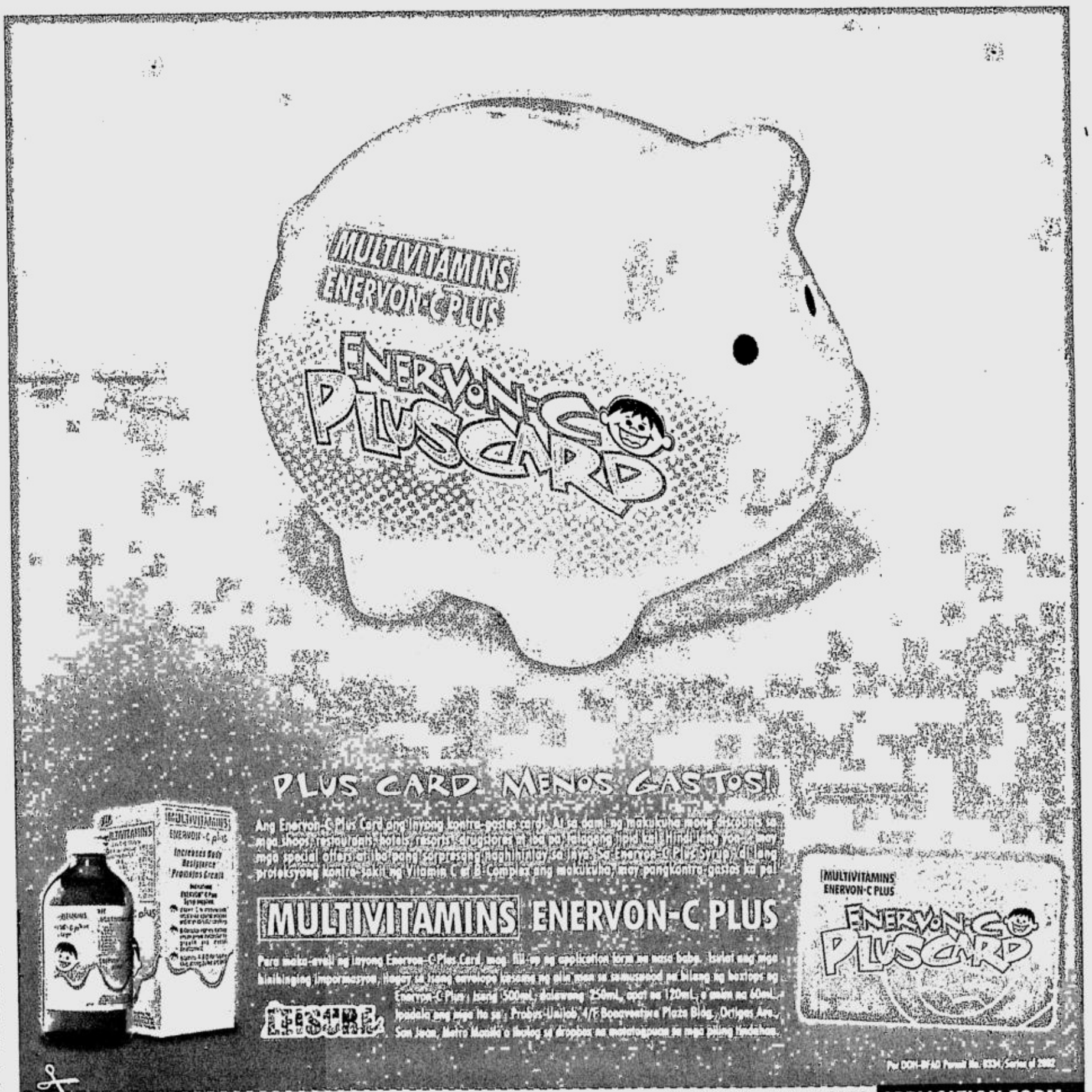


FORMER President Fidel Ramos

Internationally renowned concert pianist **Cecile Licad** will grace the second part of the evening with Variations from a Theme of Paganini scored by Rachmaninoff.



PERUVIAN Ambassador Jorge Chavez Soto and Brazilian Ambassador Claudio Lyra



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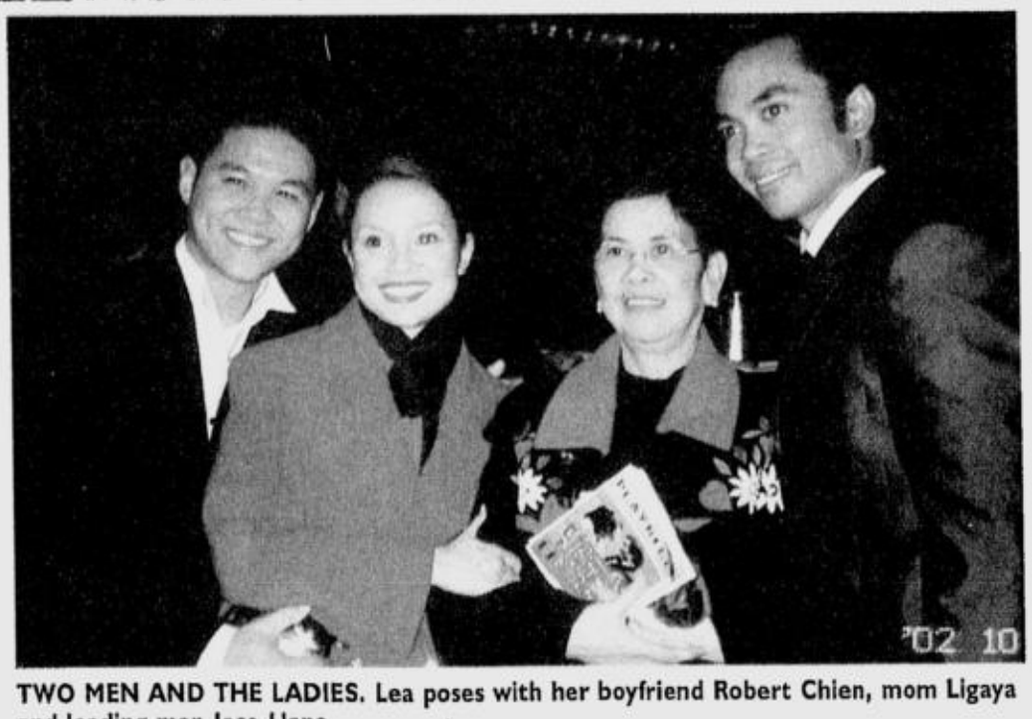
THE STAR AND HER AUDIENCE. Lea with New York-based and visiting Filipinos who watched the musical, (from left) United Nations researcher Fe Conway, former INQUIRER Lifestyle deskman Dennis Clemente, Manila Bulletin's Shirley Matias-Pizarro and Bayo owner Ferdie Agustin



TWO MEN AND THE LADIES. Lea poses with her boyfriend Robert Chien, mom Ligaya and leading man Jose Liana

Lea Salonga returns to Broadway in triumph

OPENING NIGHT. The Broadway star inside her dressing room at the Virginia Theater before the opening night party

From page D1

opening night. His other musical, "Aida," with music by Elton John and Tim Rice, was simultaneously running on Broadway at the Palace Theater on West 47th Street.

"Flower Drum Song" is the third Rodgers-and-Hammerstein musical with an East-meets-West theme. However, unlike "South Pacific" and "The King and I," the clash of cultures—traditional Chinese vs contemporary American—was presented as a musical comedy, with spectacular production numbers featuring artists in colorful costumes.

Lea's mom, Ligaya Salonga, made it to New York for the opening night, as well as Lea's younger brother Gerard, and his girlfriend, DJ Francisco, a member of the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra.

A day after the opening night, a giant photo of Lea in her "Flower Drum Song" costume landed on the front page of the Weekend Section of the New York Times, accompanied by a glowing review of the musical. The photo showed Lea in a Mao suit, striking a *tai chi* pose for her opening number.

LOVED ONES. Lea's fiancé Rob, brother Gerard with girlfriend DJ Francisco

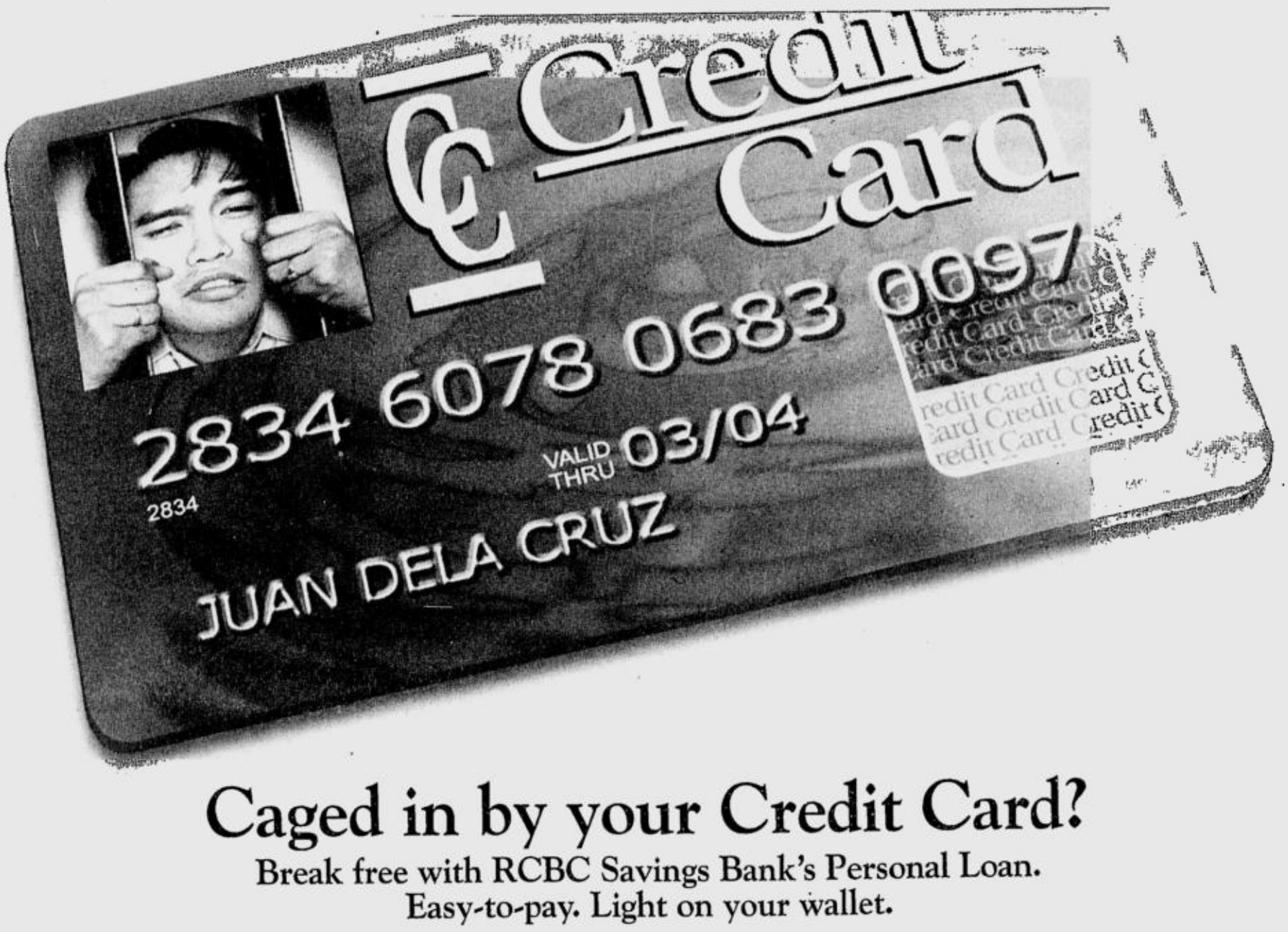
LONG WAIT. More than a decade after her return to Broadway, Lea is still mobbed by fans and autograph-seekers after her performance.

TRIUMPHANT RETURN. After "Miss Saigon," Lea gets another warm reception on Broadway.

Rave review

Ben Brantley noted that "Flower Drum Song" was given "a new coat of paint for its old pagoda." He also raved about Lea's perfor-

LEA/ p.D5



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TIMES SQUARE ATTRACTION. The huge billboard of "Flower Drum Song" (background, lower right) is a major attraction on Times Square. At the foreground are (from left) Fe Conway, the author and Dennis Clemente.

Weekend
Don't Touch 'Play'! It Could Be Fatal
New Coat of Paint for Old Pagoda
Evoking a Medieval Sound

GLOWING review in The New York Times

Lea Salonga returns to Broadway in triumph

From page D4

mance as Mei-Li, a young refugee from Communist China, who struggles to hold on to traditional homeland beliefs when she lives in America.

"If any girl needed a makeover in the competitive, fast-changing world of big-time musicals, it was Mei-Li, the winsome little heroine of Rodgers-and-Hammerstein's 'Flower Drum Song.' Mei-Li is a creature as transformed as Eliza Doolittle in the final scene in 'Pygmalion.'

"With Lea Salonga of 'Miss Saigon' fame in the role, Mei-Li's posture and gaze are now ruler-edge straight, her speech as crisp and confident as a TV newscaster.

"The attractive Ms Salonga and Mr. Llana sing prettily and feelingly. The overall effect is as if the second romantic leads of classic Rodgers-and-Hammerstein—like Rolf and Liesl in 'The Sound of Music' or Tuptim and Lun Tha in 'The King and I'—had been pushed into the foreground."

Since Lea started special previews for "Flower Drum Song" last September, Lea has

THE STAR AND ESCORT. Lea Salonga with real-life leading man, Los Angeles-based Robert Chien.

been getting enthusiastic response for her performance. "Flower Drum Song" makes her eligible for another Tony nomination as best actress in a musical, the prestigious plum she received 11 years ago for "Miss Saigon."

With the raves, ovation and critical acclaim she's been earning for "Flower Drum Song," can another Tony be far behind?

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Mechanics

PROMO DURATION	
GAWAIN	PETSA
Promo Period	Oct. 15 to Dec. 15, 2002
Daily Raffle Draws	Oct. 22 to Dec. 22, 2002
Grand Raffle Draw	Dec. 27, 2002

PAANO SUMALI?
1. Iparehistro ang iyong Telcard serial number, pangalan, kumpletong tirahan at telepono sa pamamagitan ng alinman sa mga sumusunod na paraan:
   - Tumawag sa 1-800-8- Telcard (1-800-8-8352273)
   - Sumulat sa Form sa lugar kung saan mo nabili ang iyong Telcard: sa Globe Business Center, Dealer o Outlet.
2. Tumawag gamit ang iyongTelcard (P100, P150 or P200) sa kahit saang Globe Payphone na malapit sa iyong lugar:
   - Tawag: local, NDD, IDD, cellphone at premium services
3. BAWAT TAWAG MO, ISANG RAFFLE ENTRY AGADI
4. TUMAWAG NANG TUMAWAG upang mas malaki ang pagkakataon mong manalo sa Daily at Grand Raffle Draws.

PAANO PIPILIIN ANG MANANALO?
1. Mula sa listahan ng mga tumawag, gamit ang Electronic Raffle, pipiliin ang mga mananalo sa Daily at Grand Raffle Draws.
2. Ang Raffle Draw ay gaganapin araw-araw, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, tuwing 2:00 ng hapon, sa 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer corner Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City.
3. Mahuhuli ng isang (1) linggo ang Raffle Draw; samantalang 3 araw pagkatapos nito ang paglalathala ng mga nanalo sa piling mga dyaryo.
4. Kapag napili na ang nanalong entry:
   - Susuriin mabuti ng Globe, Logika at ng DTI representative kung ang nanalo ay pinahihintulutang lumahok sa promotion. Ang tumawag para magpa-rehistro at ang taong may hawak ng Telcard ang ituturing na may-ari.
   - Magpapadala ng liham ang Globe sa nanalo upang malaman niya kung paano, saan at kailan puedeng makuha ang premyo.
   - Magsasagawa ng karagdagang pagsusuri ang Globe bago ibigay ang premyo.
5. Ang mga nanalo at hindi nanalong entries sa Daily Draws ay hindi na kasama sa susunod pang mga Daily Draws; ngunit ang ibang entries na hindi pa napipili ay kasama sa Grand Raffle Draw.

MGA PREMYO
1. Daily Raffle Draws - Oct. 22 hanggang Dec. 22, 2002
   - Isang (1) mananalo ng P10,000 in cash araw-araw
2. Grand Raffle Draw - Dec. 27, 2002
   - 1st Prize - P 100,000 in cash
   - 2nd Prize - P 50,000 in cash
   - 3rd Prize - P 25,000 in cash
   - Consolation Prizes: Sampung (10) mananalo ng P10,000 in cash

SINO ANG PUWEDENG TUMANGGAP NG PREMYO?
1. Ang premyo ay ibibigay lamang kung masusumite (submit) ng nanalo ang mga sumusunod:
   - Aktwal na Telcard na may tamang Serial Number
   - Isang (1) valid ID (Driver's License, Company ID, Birth Certificate, Passport)
   - Liham mula sa Globe
2. Kung ang napiling nanalo ay menor de edad (18 taon pababa), ito ang dapat gawin:
   - Samahan ng kanyang magulang o legal guardian at kailangan nilang magpakita ng mga dokumento bilang patunay na sila ang nangangalaga o kumukupkop sa nanalo.
3. Maaaring kunin ang premyo sa loob ng animnapung (60) araw, mula sa petsa na natanggap ng nanalo ang kanyang liham. Kung ito ay hindi nakuha sa loob ng itinakdang bilang ng araw, ang premyo ay mapupunta sa Globe ng may pagsang-ayon ng DTI.
4. Ang premyo ay maaaring makuha sa mga sumusunod na lugar:
   - NCR winners - Marketing Department, 4/F Globe Telecom Plaza Tower 1, Pioneer corner Madison Sts., Mandaluyong City
   - Provincial winners – Sa pinakamalapit na Business Center
   - Visayas winners – Marketing Department, 14/F Globe-Isla Marketing Plaza, Panay Road, Cebu Business Park, Cebu City
5. Ang 20% tax para sa lahat ng mga premyong ipamimigay na higit sa P10,000.00 ay sasagutin ng Globe; ngunit ang alin mang karagdagang taxes o gastos ay sasagutin ng nanalo.
6. Ang mga empleyado ng Globe, Islacom, Logika at Lityan Philippines, kasama ng kanilang mga kamag-anakan (up to second degree of consanguinity o affinity), ay hindi pinahihintulutang lumahok sa promotion.

Ang mga Payphones sa mga na lugar na ito ay hindi kasali sa promotion: Puerto Princesa sa Palawan; Buluan sa Maguindanao; Malabang sa Lanao del Norte; Magpet at Pigcauayan sa North Cotabato; Sablayan, Rizal at Magsaysay sa Occidental Mindoro; Isulan, Lebak at Tacurong sa Sultan Kudarat.

Para sa mga karagdagang detalye, tumawag lamang sa 1-800-8-TELCARD (1-800-8-8352273) o basahin lamang ang flyers.

For promo updates and the list of everyday winners, please read the Philippine Star or tune in to 101.1 YES! FM.

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 1657, SERIES OF 2002.

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A moral recourse to slot machines

By John L. Silva
Contributor

NOW that Pagcor has been restrained by President Macapagal-Arroyo from using its gambling earnings to spread slot machines throughout the country, perhaps it's time for the agency to honor an unfulfilled financial commitment. I am referring to Pagcor's commitment, bound by law, to the National Museum.

In 1997, after much citizen lobbying and President Fidel Ramos' support, the 10th Congress passed Republic Act 8492, or the National Museum Act of 1998. Three buildings—the old Senate, the Finance and the Department of Tourism—were given to the National Museum. This was the green light for the private sector and the government to raise hundreds of millions of pesos for the renovation of these beautiful heritage buildings.

Under former President Joseph Estrada, the completion of the first renovation, the Finance Building, occurred and the building was renamed the Museum of the Filipino People, housing the country's extensive archeological and anthropological artifacts.

Under President Macapagal-Arroyo, the new museum director, Corazon Alvina, was installed, ushering new hands-on management for the museum.

The new Museum of the Filipino People has become the country's most visited and most appreciated public institution. With its interactive machines, bilingual captions, well-lit galleries, professional guides and ample viewing spaces, the number of museum visitors, mostly students, have almost tripled in one year and is now approaching the million-visitors mark.

Hundreds of thousands of students and teachers from Jolo to Batanes have visited the museum and are unanimous in giving it high marks for inculcating knowledge and pride for our heritage.

Tour operators now make the museum a must-visit stop for tourists since it is the most comprehensive one-stop site to understand the country's culture and diversity.

Balikbayan Filipinos and the diplomatic community consider the National Museum an essential visit and commend the museum as

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

equal to any major museum in Europe and the US. In fact, because of the new renovations, the National Museum is now more modern and complete than the aging national museums of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Museum law

Section 23 of the National Museum Law mandates Pagcor and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office to provide a combined P500-million endowment fund, whose interest will be used for the museum's ongoing programs. Aside from the exhibition components, the National Museum has a wide range of programs, including acquiring material, conducting researches in the various disciplines, regulating the protection of our cultural properties, and documenting all museum projects.

Five years later, this funding has not been forthcoming despite letters and appeals reaching all the way to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The endowment, enhanced with private-sector donations, would significantly aid these various programs not covered by the museum's regular operating budget from the General Appropriations Act.

Like other government institutions, the National Museum is funded by taxpayers

Pagcor and the Sweepstakes office have yet to comply with a 1998 law to support the National Museum

barely covering personnel and general operating expenses. The programs themselves have hardly any support and become dependent on the rare largesse from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, token grants from foreign embassies, and private support. On a day-to-day basis, we have a situation where competent researchers, curators and scientists have no funds to do their work. The Congress was wise to include an endowment fund, considering that it had legislated an expanded and refurbished museum that would need greater financial support.

The reason the Museum has become the nation's favorite visiting spot is because it has been maintained in its pristine state since its 1999 inauguration. No small feat in a country where any new infrastructure project rusts, deteriorates and dirties up the day after inauguration. The museum's optimal state has been covered by its board of trustees, unfortunately relegated to making sure electricity bills, plumbing and cleaning are taken care of, rather than planning strategically for the museum's future.

Drawing crowds

The National Museum, like other world museums, is in the business of drawing crowds and presenting new and exciting exhibitions. Its present success in increasing attendance and gaining public prestige poses new challenges. Current permanent exhibitions have a shelf life and will soon need to be replaced. New blockbuster exhibitions are on the drawing board; these will surely increase attendance, and there is no stopping the National Museum from having two, three or four million visitors a year considering that only 5 percent of our nation's 16-million schoolchildren have stepped into a museum.

Once-reluctant donors now offer their art and artifact collections, which means a more extensive and secure storage space. The close-to-one-million artifacts the museum has are subject to the vicissitudes of time, requiring more conservation efforts in an exponential rate. Correspondingly, more security and maintenance manpower are needed as ever more people flock to see their heritage.

But visitor numbers are not the only reason for the National Museum's existence. The museum is our public face to the world and, as the tour operators will confirm, it is a potential tourism bonanza like other museums in the world. The Louvre in Paris alone receives six million visitors a year; that's three times the total number of foreign visitors to the Philippines.

Recently, the Department of Trade and Industry sent several hundred of their employees to the National Museum as part of their Proud to be Filipino series, a brainchild of Trade Secretary Mar Roxas. After an extensive tour and lecture, the employees were grateful that their heritage was presented with dignity, which gave them pride as Filipinos and, most important, as Philippine government employees.

The Philippine government as an entity is the largest employer of Filipinos in this country. Unlike the private sector, government employees, already underpaid, toil without stock option incentives and quarterly earnings that may result in bonuses. They only have the intangible compensation of knowing they serve their fragile country and its impoverished people. In their visit to the National Museum, the DTI employees found their personal sacrifices, their patriotism acknowledged as a continuum in a rich and noble pageantry of Philippine past. They also found their taxes put to good use.

In the past three years, hundreds of thousands of visiting Filipinos, young and old, have found their roots and have become the better for it. In the near future, when museum visitors begin to reach in the millions, the government will find arts, culture and heritage need no longer be on the fringes of national concerns.

Aside from the budget deficit, the country faces a deficit of morally upright Filipino citizens. One is tempted to ask though: How does one practice being morally upright when one doesn't even know what being a Filipino means?

Instead of gambling that dangles luck to a few, it's high time for Pagcor and the PCSO to stop being in arrears and dutifully comply with what the Congress had enacted five years ago. The National Museum molds morally upright Filipinos each day. Let "sin" money exorcise itself and be used for the moral good and upliftment of our nation.

John L. Silva is senior consultant to the National Museum

There is yet hope for hopeless Manila

First of two parts

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

MANILA is a city that we residents all love to hate. And why not? It is a terrible, polluted city that assaults the senses. It is not a city that provides a reasonable level of urban amenities to ensure a bearable quality of life for those us cursed to live here. And yet most citizens who continue living in the city passively take what authorities decide to give them, asking no questions.

Therefore, probably the biggest challenge of Manila has been getting its residents together with city authorities, once and for all, in meaningful and direct consultation so that together they can finally plan an environment that answers the needs of the population. So far this has not happened. Since the war, Manila has grown, surpassing the cliché of development—"in leaps and bounds." Its growth has been quick, uncontrolled, totally market-driven and controlled by speculation.

Take Intramuros, for example. Before the arrival of the Spaniards, there already was Maynilad, a collection of small riverine settlements scattered on the islands at the mouth of the Pasig River, which the Spaniards subdued. The Intramuros built after the fall of Maynilad eventually became synonymous with Spanish colonial Manila. Protected by fortified walls that were constructed starting 1571, Intramuros became the nerve center of the Spanish régime. It was where government and church headquarters were situated together with the residences of the influential Spanish and Spanish-Filipinos. It was an enclave that shut its gates in the evenings to the natural Filipinos and Sangley (Chinese) who were not allowed to spend the night within the premises. Until the Philippines fell to the United States in 1898, Intramuros was the eastern terminus of the vast Spanish Empire where galleons loaded trade goods from the Philippines, the Far East and China to be unloaded in Acapulco in Mexico for trans-shipment to Spain and the rest of Europe. Intramuros was the country's main hub of power and trade. Small wonder that all Filipinos recognize Intramuros as the premier monument of their heritage, the most extensive center of Spanish colonial heritage in the country today.

SAVE for the former house of Gregoria de Jesus, there is no effort to preserve the cultural heritage of Quiapo.

QUIAPO in tatters

Intramuros, declared a National Treasure by the Philippine government, is the only heritage zone in the country with definite boundaries (the walls) defining its area, with a buffer zone (the moat surrounding the walls, now a golf course) and, most importantly, with a specific legal framework (Presidential Decree 1616, the Intramuros Code) for protection. A board of directors oversees the implementation of the Intramuros Code, with its directives carried out by the Intramuros Administration.

On paper, everything is in place to ensure the proper maintenance of Intramuros. In actuality, it is not working. What has gone wrong?

Dead zone

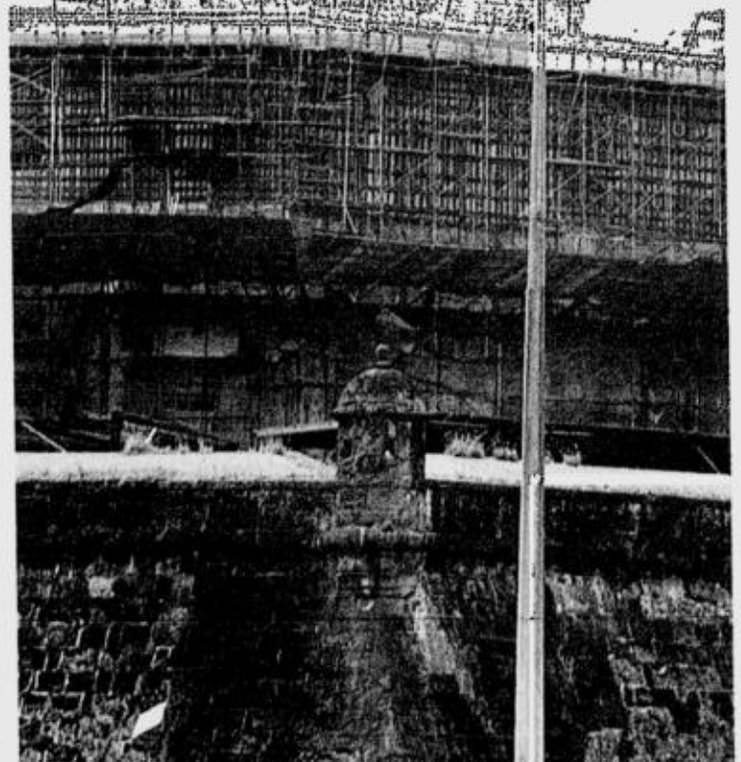
In the over 25-year existence of the Intramuros Code, construction of new buildings within the precinct has been slow. Property owners see the Intramuros Code that strictly regulates the design and size of new buildings as restrictive. The height regulations are seen as preventing the maximum return on investments since new structures are limited to four stories. Although Intramuros is in the center of Manila, property values have not risen. Many properties remain empty, perhaps waiting for a repeal of the height restrictions. Life has not returned to Intramuros. Although the many universities within the walls bring a large daytime population, few live there permanently.

Intramuros is seen by Manileños as a monument rather than part of the living city. It is seen as a tourism resource, with planning efforts focused on making it a heritage theme park for tourists rather than to attracting a population to reside and work in the area through adaptive reuse of the few existing heritage buildings. The approach is typical of government authorities who see heritage as monuments to the past rather than resources to improve the quality of life in Philippine cities.

Intramuros is not the only heritage zone in Manila that is not used to its maximum potential. Across the Pasig River from Intramuros, Binondo was the economic center of Manila since the Spanish colonial era. Market-driven real estate development routinely ignores government markers that designate historic structures in the zone. Historic structures are torn down, replaced with high-rises. Others are left to decay, ultimately to be declared unsafe, and finally to be replaced with new structures. The heritage architecture of Binondo has all but disappeared. Buildings from the mid-19th century to the 1960s have been replaced by nondescript buildings that increase vehicular traffic beyond the capacity of the narrow streets and tax the supply of services.

Patrician Quiapo has fallen on hard times. Its structures continue to stand today, although practically in tatters. The heritage zone is located in central Manila, a heavily populated pilgrimage destination and bustling commercial center. The majestic late-19th-century mansions that line R. Hidalgo Street have either been abandoned or transformed into student dormitories and, worse, into squatter housing. Decay is everywhere. Except for the residence of the descendants of a national hero who have opened their house to the public as a museum, no other examples of architectural reuse of heritage houses are seen in the area.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific. net.ph



DESPITE Intramuros' strict building policy, some structures get away with real-estate greed.

SAVE for the ancient Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz, there's hardly a trace of rich history in Binondo.

November events at Powerbooks

POWERBOOKS Specialty Store cooks up a storm this month with a mixture of exciting promos and special events.

Classic books

PowerBooks customers are in for a special literary treat this month with the "Book that Changed My Life" promo. From Nov. 1-30, buy any Modern Library book at any PowerBooks branch and get a raffle coupon for a chance to win one of four Modern Library book sets up for grabs. Modern Library books are literary classics reprinted by Random House that would be a great addition to any household library.

Cooking demo

Catch a special cooking demonstration by Maya Kitchen at PowerBooks Megamall on Nov. 9, 3 p.m. Maya Kitchen, one of the most respected culinary schools in the country, has published several best-selling cookbooks, all available in PowerBooks.

Business book club

PowerBooks and McGraw Hill team up for another special business talk titled "E-MBA" on Nov. 14 at PowerBooks Arnaiz, which will be conducted by Prof. Cesar Mansibang from Ateneo. Registration will start at 5:30 p.m. and will be open to all. McGraw Hill Education will also launch their special book club on the same day. For every purchase of McGraw Hill books at any PowerBooks branch, customers are entitled to join the McGraw Hill Book Club. Privileges include special discounts on McGraw Hill titles and invitations to future members-only events and talks.

Poetry reading

Join another night of creative revelry at PowerBooks' poetry reading conducted by the Power Poets on Nov. 16, 6 p.m., at the second-floor events area of PowerBooks Arnaiz.

Comic book signing

PowerBooks invites all graphic novel enthusiasts to a special launch and book signing of up and coming talent Arnold Arre, and his book "After Eden," at PowerBooks Megamall on Nov. 23 at 3 p.m., and at PowerBooks Glorietta on Nov. 30, 3 p.m. Get your copies signed and get to meet the creator of the critically acclaimed graphic novel.

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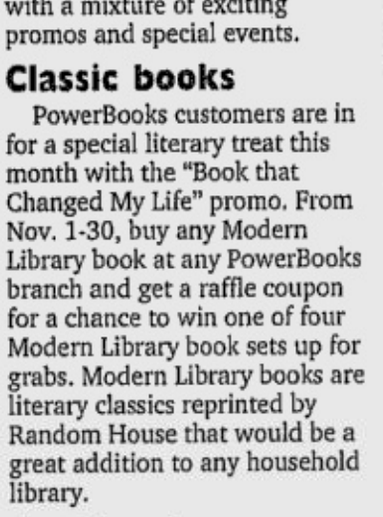


Asia's most favored pen

PARKER received the Platinum Award, its second SuperBrand Award from Reader's Digest Asia. The honor is higher than the Gold Award it won last year.

Over 3,000 respondents from the Philippines, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand, recognized Parker's outstanding brand performance in the region.

The SuperBrand Awards is commissioned by Reader's Digest Asia and is the only consumer survey of its kind and magnitude across Southeast Asia.

Launched in 1999, the SuperBrands Survey asks consumers to name the brands they admire, believe in and trust in a total of 37 categories—from luxury products to everyday necessities.

The Platinum Award is given when the brand gets a score of more than twice to three times that of the next brand, plus an average overall quality rate of four or above (five means excellent).

Parker continues to enjoy top-of-mind awareness among Asians through pen products that combine style and functionality, traditional craftsmanship and advanced technology. In the Philippines, Parker is distributed by Star Paper Corporation and is available in National Book Store, Shoemart, Rustan's Department Store and other stationery outlets. Call 364 6041 to 49, 363-8888.

Books

Diverse Filipino issues tackled in New Day titles

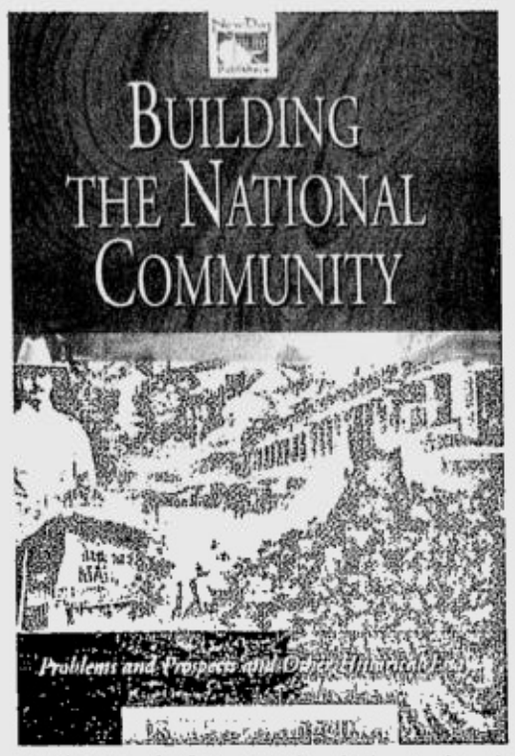
PREHISTORIC Mindanao indigenous tribes, an American air base, turn-of-the-century epidemics, historical essays and religious fundamentalism—these are the interesting historical themes of the new titles released recently by New Day Publishers, a pioneer religious and Filipiniana publishing house.

"Iranun and Balangingi: Globalization, Maritime Raiding and the Birth of Ethnicity" by Australian historian James F. Warren is a 608-page book of historical essays exploring ethnic, cultural and material changes in the history of Southeast Asia. The book is an exhaustive ethnological study of the way of life of the Iranun and Balangingi indigenous tribes, who inhabited the Sulu-Mindanao region during the pre-Spanish period and are now under threat of extinction because of modernity.

"Clark Field and the US Army Air Corps in the Philippines, 1919 to 1942" by American author Richard Miexzel is a 188-page documentation of Clark Field, tracing the development of the biggest US military air base in the Asia and Pacific from 1919 to the outbreak of the Second World War. While focusing on the garrison life of the American pilots, the book may lead to a controversy that rivals Pearl Harbor—the near-decimation of the entire air fleet, when the Japanese attacked in December 1941 despite the detection of danger signals.

"Agents of Apocalypse" by historian Ken De Bevoise of the Northwestern University is a 288-page reference book on the interdynamics of historical processes that connect humans and their diseases at the turn-of-the-century. The book is an ecology of human actions where the author uses the Philippine experience as a case study to explore human participation in creating their epidemics that plagued the populace during the colonial period.

"Building A National Community: Problem and Prospects and Other Historical Essays" by Oscar L. Evangelista is an assessment of Philippine history from the Spanish period until 1991, when the Senate voted to abrogate the US Military Bases Agreement. The book, with a foreword written by former National Historical Institute chairman Pablo Trillana III, dissects the common problems that plagued the country throughout the centuries and proposes some doable solutions. The author is a retired professor and former vice president of the University of the Philippines.



"Broken Mirror" by Shelton Woods explores the social and religious implications of religious fundamentalism through the use of a case study of a Protestant church in Vintar, Ilocos Norte, presenting the voices of the proponents and detractors of fundamentalism.

The books are available at National Book Store, Goodwill Bookstore and PowerBooks. Call 928-8046 or 927-5982.

My Special Valentine romance series releases 600th title

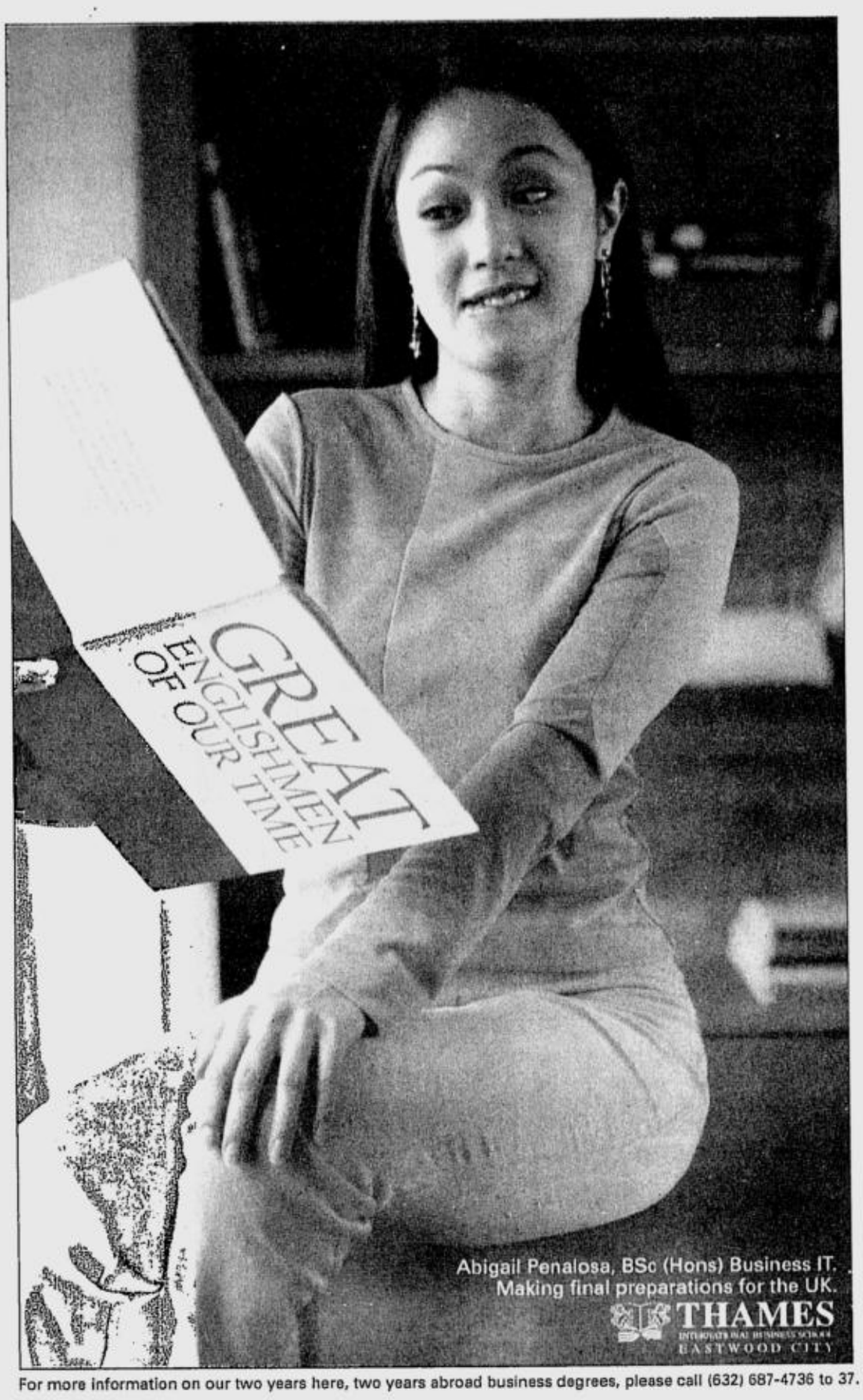
MY SPECIAL Valentine (MSV) has released its 50th set of new titles this week. Each set has 12 novels, which means MSV has released a total of 600 titles, a publishing record in the Philippines.

The success of MSV owes to its romantic stories that appeal to the Filipino taste.

The 50th set published by Bookware Publishing Corp. include: "Just Tell Me You Love Me," "Yes, It's You," "Show Me the Way to Your Heart," "Forevermore," "Till the End of Time," "If You Love Me, Let Me Go," "Maria Helena," "Playful Heart," "Sana Maulit Muli," "Kay Hirap Limutin," "My Heart's Desire" and "You Belong to My Heart."

MSV's Nokia 8310 raffle promo continues to attract entries nationwide and from abroad. The most recent monthly winner is Maricris Aquilino of Pasay City.

Call 631-8893 to 94.



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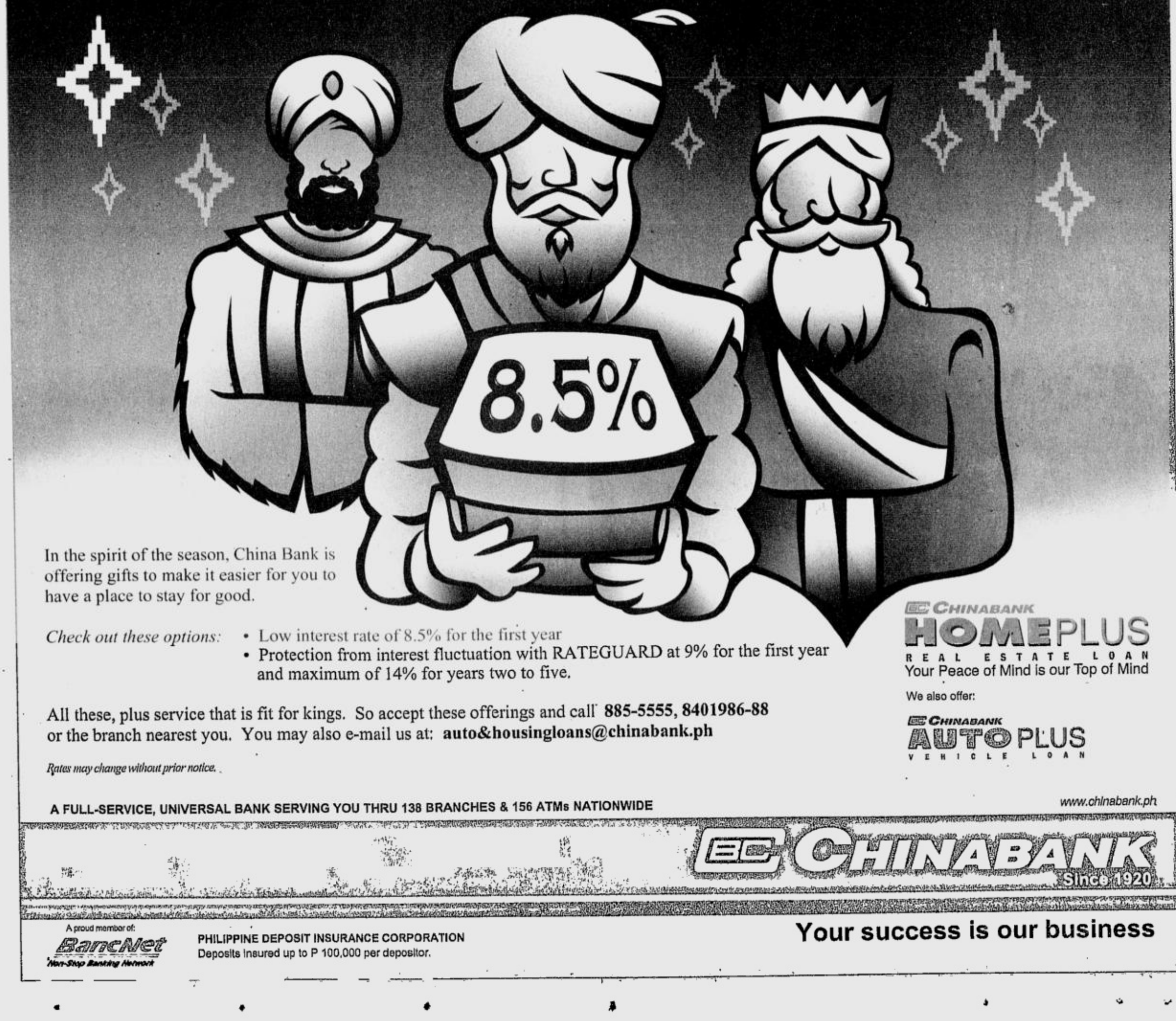

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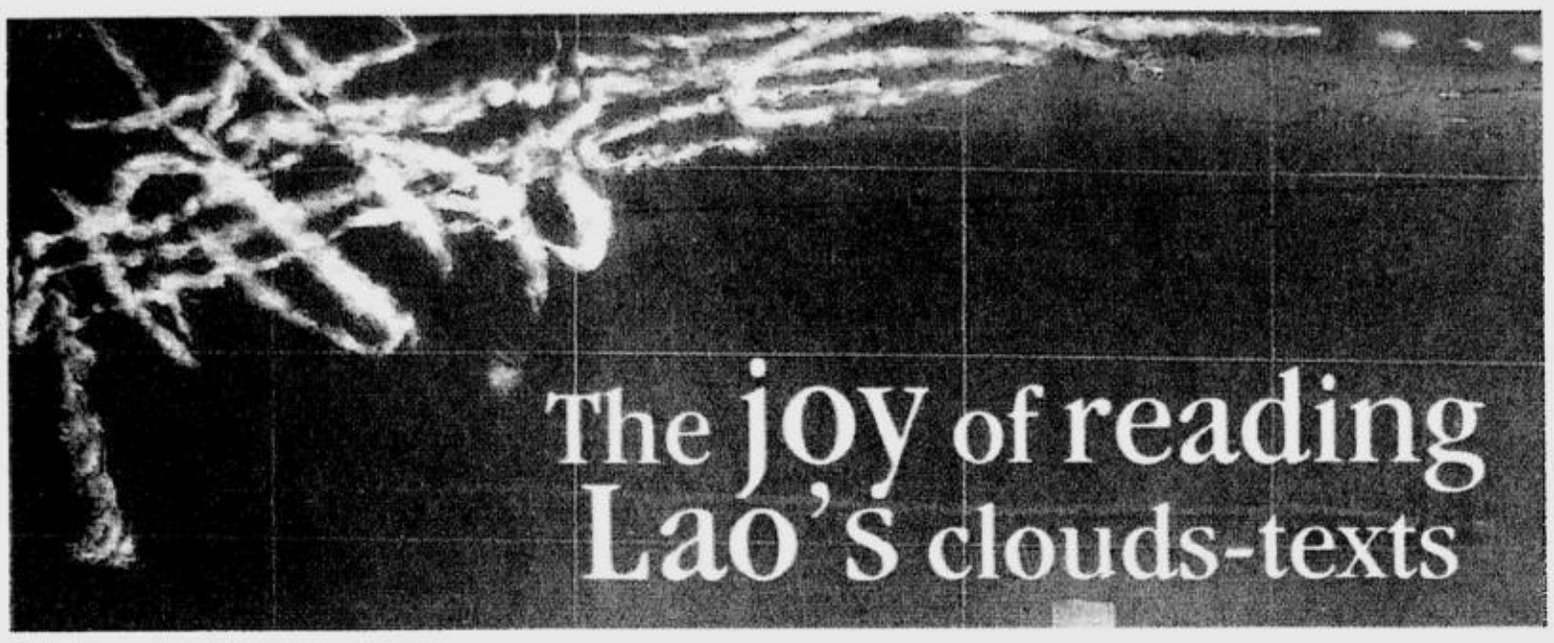

"WRITING of the Clouds"

STORY ON PAGE E2

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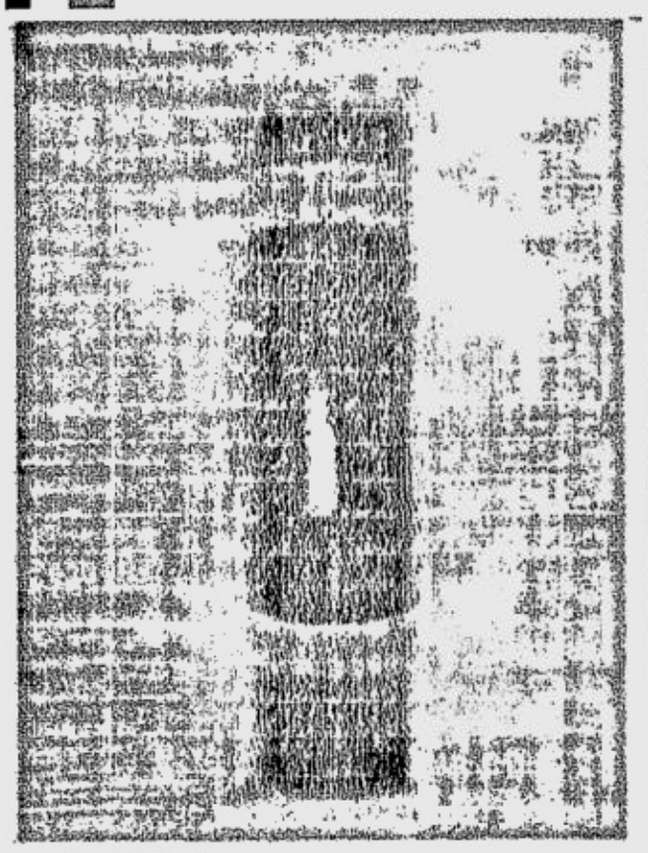
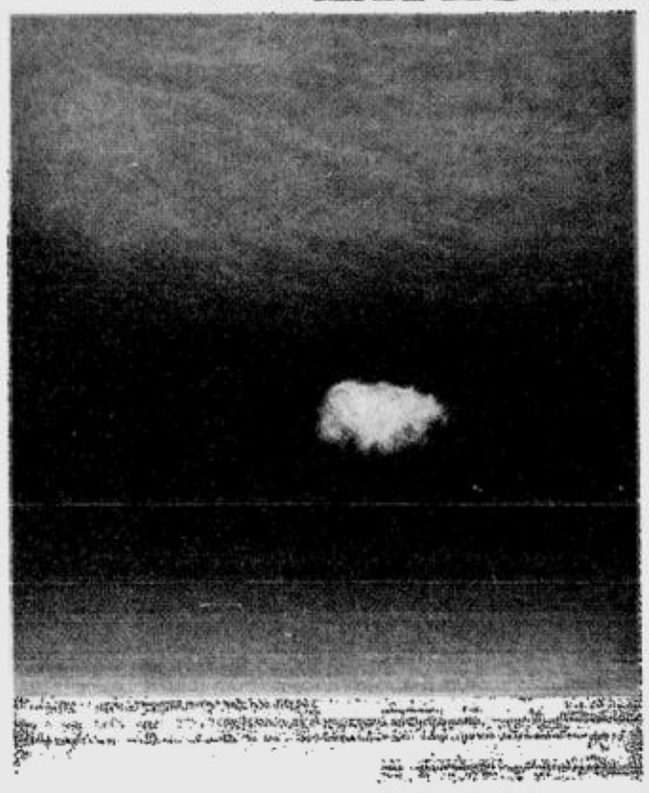


"DEEP Thinking"



"ZEN Cloud"

The joy of reading Lao's clouds-texts

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

ONE does not exactly wander "lonely as a cloud" into Lao Lianben's exhibit "The Writings of the Clouds" (until tomorrow) at Galleria Duemila in SM Megamall. If you claim to be a Lao enthusiast, chances are you will experience joy, pure and simple, as you set eyes on the painting before the threshold.

Gradually, an astonishing "lightness of being" takes hold of you as you contemplate one painting after the other—"Under the Influence," "Clouds Garden," "Zen Clouds," "Deep Thinking." And as you pause before "Buddhist Television," a smile blooms on your face.

By the time you stand before "Still Waters," it almost seems as if you were "flying without wings" if you can unashamedly steal a line from Westlife.

In letting clouds and water to write themselves, Lao allows us to enter the realm of lightness, removed from all that is weighty. He assists us to get a glimpse of the poignant beauty of the ephemeral.

Ephemeros refers to *emera* (day), that which lasts only for a day, an instant. One calls "ephemeral" what is suspended between appearance and disappearance, between presence and absence, between the visible and the invisible.

Immediately, we become witnesses to an art of that blessed instant when the world reveals its fragility, and time its "here" and "now." It is that moment when life simply affirms itself as life.

Lao's 13 works done in acrylic, cotton and Plexiglas on canvas evoke for most people Zen calligraphy. And rightly so. The common meaning of the Greek suffix, *grapho* is "to write," draw or record. Lao's deliberate markings and tracings on the surface of his Plexiglas and canvas are literally writings/drawings/recordings that immediately make present to us the evanescent passage of clouds, water and light.

What appears then on his canvas is an "image-thought." An "image-text" that renders the invisible visible and legible. It is this indissoluble unity of the "image-thought," the "cloud-text" that stays long after in the eye of the mind.

Of course, it is necessary that this graphic "un-covering" of reality be prepared for by a patient struggling with the darkness of the night, a serene listening to the stillness of water, a long waiting to watch a stone grow. It is nourished by meditation that cultivates a profound respect for what seems like nothing. But this nothing is a luxury for those set apart, those who embark on a way of thinking and acting that is not dominating but welcoming.

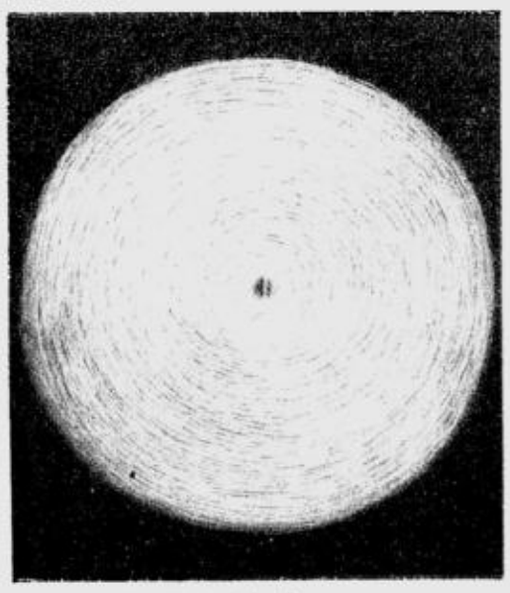
The Jesuit philosopher of Ateneo, Fr. Roque Ferriols, once remarked: "After 50, one does not have to prove anything. If at 50 you have not proven whatever it is you set out to prove, you'll never prove it. So, just simply enjoy life."

Lao does not set out to prove anything. His art is a refusal of expression, if not a going beyond it. What he quietly toils at is to let things be, to allow them to bare their quivering freshness and beauty. Lao shows us what lies hidden in the visible.

When pressed to answer why he described a cloud as a "Zen Cloud," he evoked a memory of being fascinated by the gray robe of a Buddhist monk, walking on the streets of the Chinatown of his youth. In his gray garb, the monk looked like a cloud, set apart from the crowd that hurried past him.

In his casual simplicity, the monk may have reminded Lao that nobility of spirit consists in devoting oneself to what is truly essential.

In this day and age, when there is a permanent zapping of images and a constant bombarding of text messages, Lao is there to assure us. We exist. We can still be transported to incredible heights, if we only lay back on the grass and take time to read the writings of the clouds.



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Gala of Ibsen's 'Brand' on Nov. 15

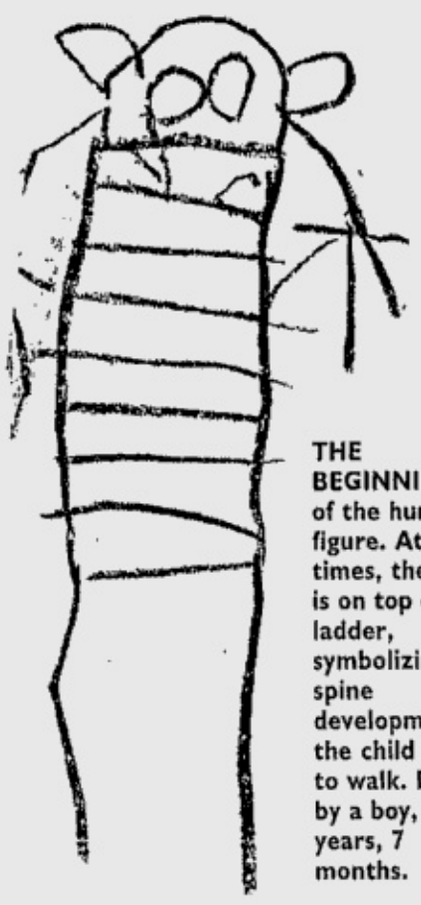
DRAMATIS Personae, with the Royal Norwegian embassy, presents the gala performance of Henrik Ibsen's "Brand," 8 p.m., Nov. 15, at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, H.V. de la Costa Street corner Makati Avenue, Makati. Regular performances will be at the Pius XII Theater, Pius XII Catholic Center, until March 2003.

"Brand" features Dingdong Rosales, Joel Caballero, Andre Christian Torres, Abigail Aquino, Angie Baesa, Marjorie Amurao, Ben Flores, Lesley Anne Leveriza and Daniel Magisa. It is designed and directed by Dramatis Personae's artistic director Lito Casaje. Voltaire de Jesus designed the lights and Lito Perez the costumes. Rod Quinto is stage manager.

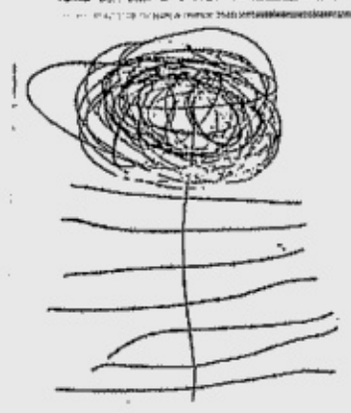
"Brand" is a drama on moral absolutism versus compromise. Its message is timely and fiercely denounces moral apathy in society.

Tickets are available at all Ticketnet outlets, SM malls and department stores, Cultural Center of the Philippines box office, Landmark Ticketron, and at The Podium in Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 721-3178, 722-4205, (0918) 650-7617, (0919) 418-7696 or e-mail dramatis_personae@email.com. Visit www.softrigger.com/dp.

From the scribblings of babes



THE BEGINNINGS of the human figure. At times, the head is on top of a ladder, symbolizing spine development as the child learns to walk. Drawn by a boy, 3 years, 7 months.



By Allison W. Lopez

NOTHING is spared by a child with a pencil. As if armored with a weapon, he "destroys" your favorite hardbound book, the floral wallpaper, and countless other precious items with his unintelligible scribbles.

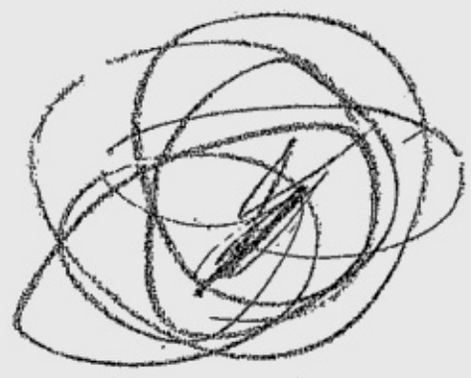
But instead of instinctively shouting, "No, don't do that," understand that the child is undergoing a phase. Not to the point of letting him vandalize the whole house, of course.

When a child picks up his first drawing instrument and starts to scribble on the paper, wall or floor, he begins to speak from within.

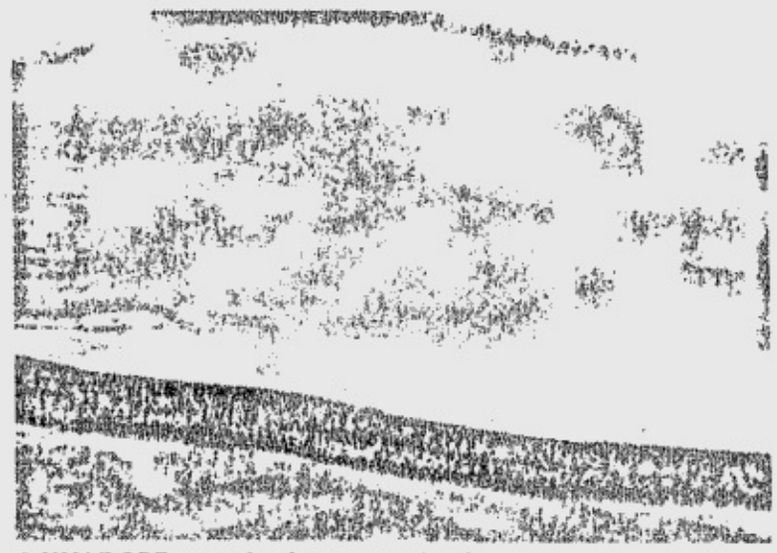
In "A Play of Colors," an exhibit sponsored by the Manila Waldorf School parents, the true language of the pristine child is shown through illustrations made by Waldorf's preschoolers.

Say Waldorf parents: "Today, the electronic medium has affected most of our children's natural expression. [Electronic] images have taken over our children's pure imagination. Because of this influence, many parents are unable to monitor the true language of the child."

Waldorf School parents are concerned with how children speak their language nowadays. Could they be just drawing what they have seen on TV, or do their drawings come from their fertile imagination?



A YEAR-and-10-month-old girl creates loops and curves that may be interpreted as rhythmic movements of the planets.



A WALDORF pre-schooler unconsciously mimics nature in this landscape.

Child's progress

A child is immersed in movement and rhythm until the third year, when the loops he makes close to a circle and find a center.

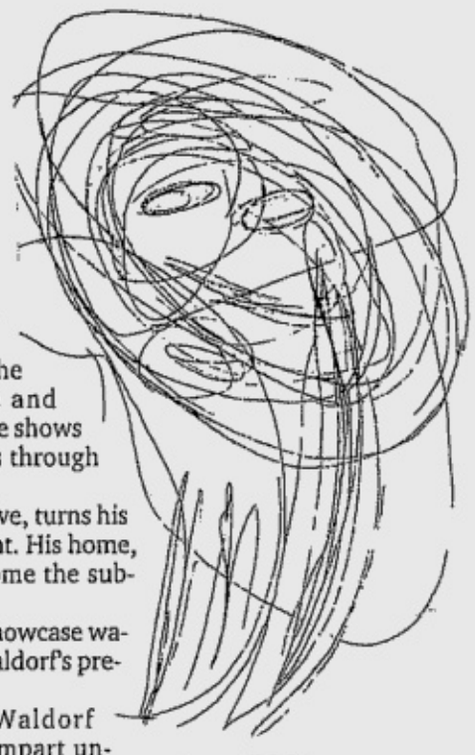
At about four years, the child becomes creative and bursts forth with colors. He shows joy and expresses sadness through his choice of pigment.

The child, toward age five, turns his interest to the environment. His home, pets and landscapes become the subjects of his drawings.

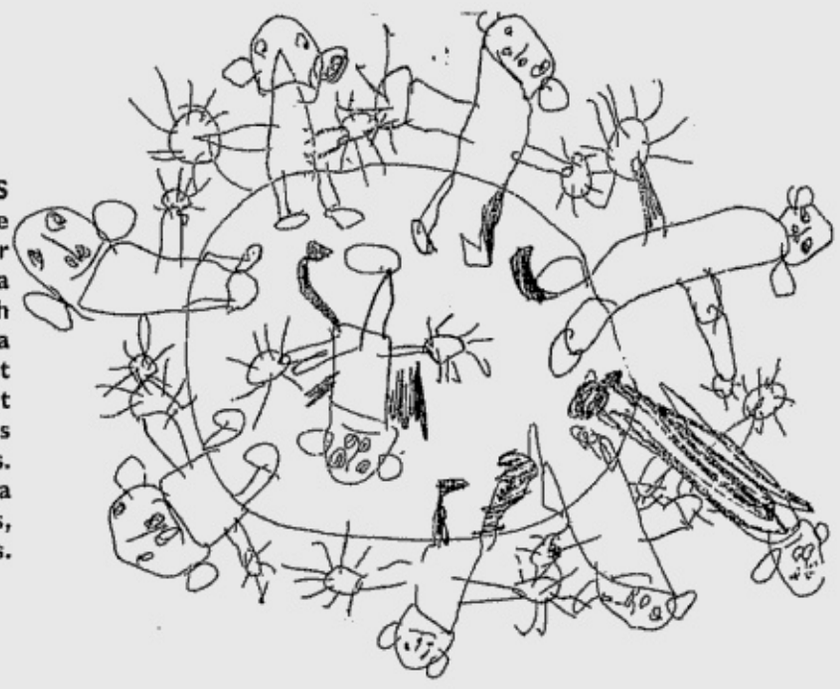
"A Play of Colors" will showcase watercolor works done by Waldorf's preschoolers.

With the exhibit, Waldorf School parents hope to impart understanding to fellow parents on the need to appreciate the child's unique gift of expressing his emotions through circles and colors—even on the precious marble-tiled floor.

"A Play of Colors" will be shown on Nov. 8-13 at the South Court of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati City.



EGO DEVELOPMENT. The circle with a dot in the center gradually grows a trunk. Drawn by a boy, 2 years and 1 month.



CIRCLES have tentacles or antenna arms, which prefigure a child's effort to reach out to his surroundings. Drawn by a girl, 4 years, 5 months.

Bicol artists at Alliance Française, Payawal at Big & Small, Veneracion at Duemila, Randy David at Lopez

"OVER the Volcano" is a multimedia art exhibit presented by the Center for Bikol Arts Foundation at the Alliance Française (209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel Air II, Makati) on Nov. 11-22. Artists featured include Gus

VISUAL ARTS

Albor, Hermes Alegre, Pano Carumba, Arvin Atos, Ely Benito, Budz Convocar, Maria Lourdes de Vera, Beth Estevez, Lupo Grageda, Marne Kilates, Alain Cuchas Llaguno, Johnny Magdasak, Tiny Nuyda, Emil Obligacion, Ernesto Patricio, Frank Penones, Ping Peralta, Dante Perez, Archie Perez, Larry Quirona, Roxlee, Manny Samson and Pop Sierra.

"FOOT Trip Series," acrylic on canvas, by Butch Payawal, at Big & Small

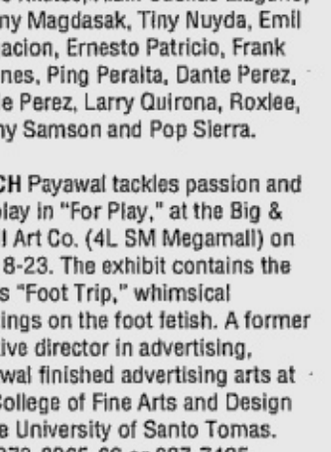
BUTCH Payawal tackles passion and foreplay in "For Play," at the Big & Small Art Co. (4L SM Megamall) on Nov. 8-23. The exhibit contains the series "Foot Trip," whimsical paintings on the foot fetish. A former creative director in advertising, Payawal finished advertising arts at the College of Fine Arts and Design of the University of Santo Tomas. Call 373-3365-66 or 687-7425.

ROY VENERACION holds his 17th one-man exhibit, "New Works," works aimed at deconstructing conventions and perceptions of the two-dimensional medium, through the fragmentation of time both in the composition and in the process of creating. This exhibit is a collection of paintings of mostly acrylic and enamel on canvas, presenting illusion, intuition, accident balanced with precision, and mastery of the medium. The images are mostly inspired by dreams. And, sometimes, during waking hours, by images seen through the mind's eye.
The exhibit opens on Nov.8, at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 633-6687 or 634-3261.

SOCIOLOGIST and teacher Randolf S. David will talk on "The Idea of Nation" at the Lopez Memorial Museum on Nov. 9 at 2 p.m. The lecture is part of the series that complements "Zero-In: Private Art, Public Lives" exhibition series at the Lopez, Ayala and Ateneo museums-galleries. Call 499-2355.

THE ATENEO Art Gallery is the recipient of artworks from the estate of the late Wili and Doreen Fernandez. Among the Modern Philippine paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures in the collection is a pair of unsigned portraits of the couple. The creator of these works remains unidentified. Call 426-6001 local 4160. The paintings are among 40 artworks included in the Ateneo Art Gallery's forthcoming exhibit, "In Good Taste: The Wili & Doreen Fernandez Gift of Modern Philippine Art," opening on Nov. 26.

ELMER BORLONGAN probes the creative dimensions of personal territories in "Teritoryo," a one-man exhibition at Boston Gallery, 72-A, Cubao, Quezon City, Nov. 16-30. Borlongan derives most of his anecdotal subjects from observations of everyday life. His paintings depict a variety of conditions: a *kariton* used as a stroller, a polio-victim barker, a chess game under a pedestrian overpass, and a shooting gallery in a carnival. Call 722-9205.



MARK Mallari's meditative artworks are featured at The Drawing Room (Metrostar Bldg., 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati) until Nov. 20. Call 897-6990 and -7877.

CHILD-ARTISTS were featured in the Nido Little Artists Art Exhibit at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell, Makati recently. The artists, aged 6 - 12 years old, worked on the theme of

BICOL/ p.E5

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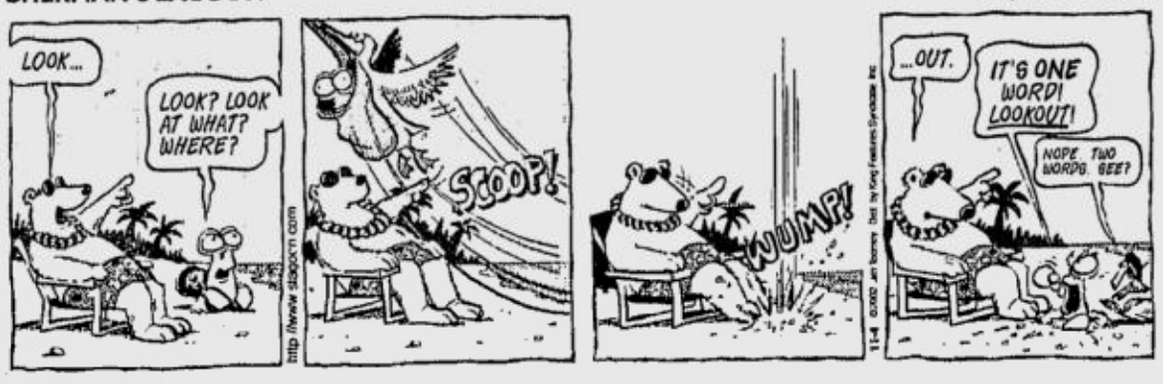
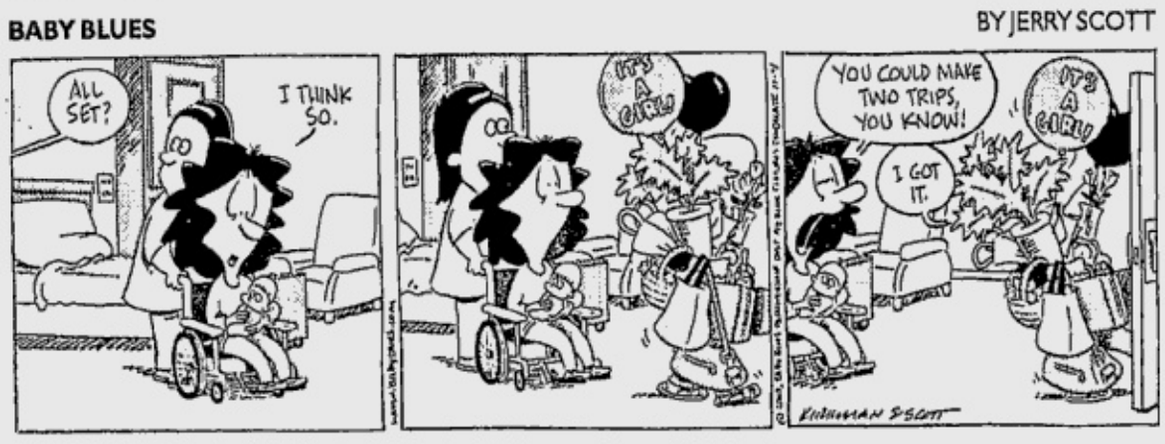


PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Loretta Swit, Markie Post, Walter Cronkite, Matthew McConaughey
Happy Birthday: Fast action and lots of opportunity will go hand in hand this year. Your reluctance to accept what's happening in your life will be the very thing that holds you back. Stay on top of things and prepare to put your ideas into motion. This will be a great time to prosper if you are willing to go the whole nine yards. Your numbers are 3, 8, 14, 25, 33,

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't discount any of your ideas. Past romantic partners may surface, however, you must remember why these connections dissolved before. Tread carefully and stay open to new people.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get emotionally involved with someone at work. Travel or lectures may have brought you in contact with individuals you can't trust. This is a time to remain alert and be discriminating.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Personal legal matters may be upsetting to you. Get as much information as necessary to have a fuller picture. Someone may be trying to mislead you. Be careful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Problems with your personal life may cause you to retreat into isolation. This would be a good time to get out with some friends and have a change of scenery. Someone you care about may be playing emotional games with you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get stuck paying for other people's entertainment. Tempers may mount but you must hold your ground. At this time you need to look after your own best interests. You may find out who your real friends are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Busy yourself with domestic duties or get out of the house altogether. Someone you live with may be on a rampage. Give them some space and time alone so that they can work through things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get involved in other people's affairs. Go about your business and look out for your own interests. There is plenty you could be doing to enhance your life, but don't spend on unnecessary entertainment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may feel a little under the weather. Restore some order to your home environment and you will begin to feel better. An early evening should be in order.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Uncertainties about your direction may lead to sudden changes in employment. Don't overreact to the suggestions made by superiors. Listen carefully to what is being proposed and consider the possibilities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your efforts into making the necessary changes at home. Don't expect any help. Life isn't always fair, so just do the very best you can. It will all work out.

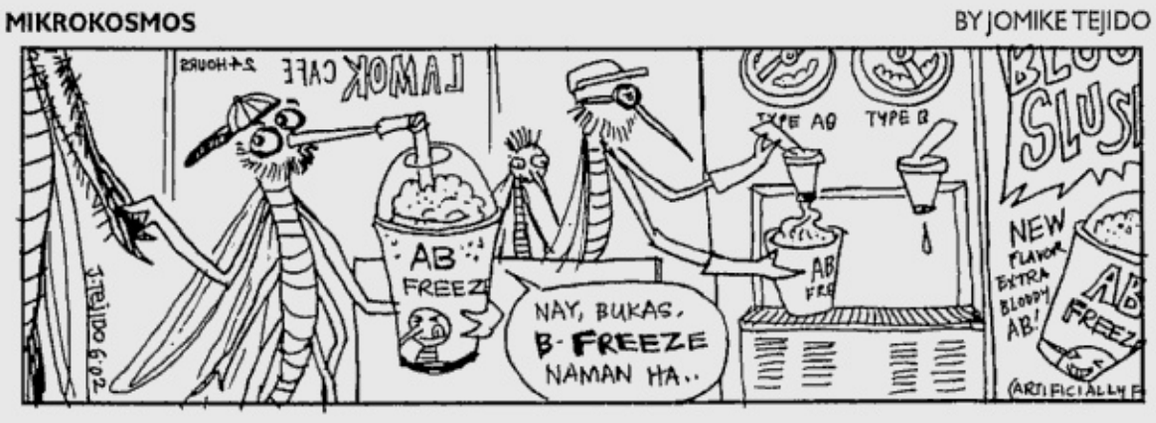
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will get along famously with people who can give you greater understanding of your direction. You can inquire about reference material that will help you determine your choices.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Older family members may need your undivided attention immediately. Take care of the situation the best you can, but don't allow it to take over your life.

Birthday Baby: You will be a dedicated and loyal individual who will always look out for the underdog. You will take the initiative to follow your dreams. You will be eager to please, but sometimes you will lack practicality.

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

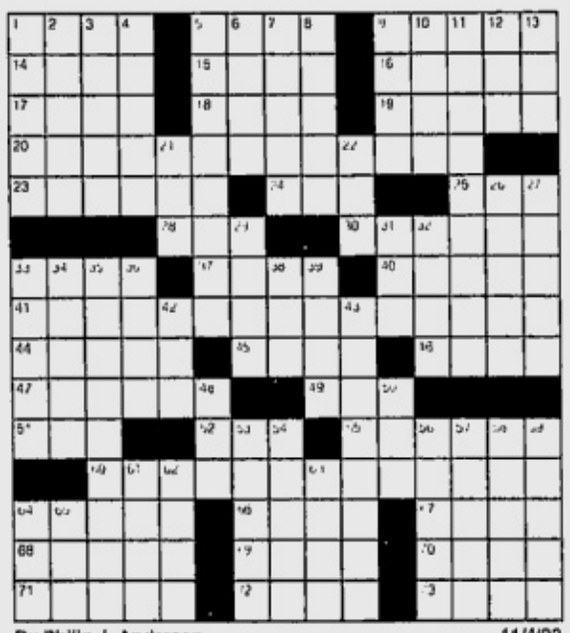


KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR
11/4/02

ACROSS
1 Indian tourist mecca
5 Velvety flora
9 Borg or Sorenstam
14 Fox's title
15 Grace closing
16 Suffered sickness
17 Adjutant
18 Change the decor
19 Chews (on)
20 Yarn maker
23 Neighbor of the Republica Portuguesa
24 Look up and down
25 Oklahoma town
28 Theologian who opposed Luther
30 Typical
33 Wound crust
37 Saint's aura
40 MacDonald's refrain
41 Dancing fakir
44 Eagle's nest
45 Ager of parents?
46 New Age Irish singer
47 Gray shade
49 Summer drink
51 Full-house sign
52 Yokohama yes
55 Listless and weak
60 Draft-reduction entrance
64 Culture dish
66 Pioneer director Fritz
67 Setting
68 Set of principles
69 As soon as
70 QED part
71 Name on a check
72 Winter Palace ruler
73 __-majesty

DOWN
1 Degrade
2 Stagehands
3 Thicken candles
4 Fight site
5 Baja band
6 Harbinger
7 Grasslike plant
8 Like some winter days
9 Cooking herb
10 Hock or port
11 Site of Rommel's defeat
12 Dawn moisture
13 Meese and McBain
21 Vane dir.
22 Coop denizen
26 Upsy-__
27 Ciao on Kauai
29 Philosopher Immanuel
31 Above, in poems
32 La __ gauche
33 Exchanges
34 Mirth
35 OK to fly
36 Manchester man
38 T-shirt size
39 Concert halls
42 Peggy or Spike
43 Imperil
48 PI follower
50 H.S. subj.
53 Mete out
54 Pavlov and Reitman
56 Ford's lemon?
57 Watered fabric
58 Small amounts
59 Greek island
61 Canal of song
62 "Miami __"
63 Old Peruvian
64 Vim
65 Greek letter

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

B	O	D	E	G	A	S	■	S	A	R	C	A	S	M
O	P	E	R	A	T	E	■	T	R	E	A	D	L	E
L	A	P	R	O	B	E	■	U	G	A	N	D	A	N
I	L	L	■	L	A	D	■	P	O	R	T	E	N	D
V	I	E	W	■	T	I	E	I	N	■	E	D	G	E
A	N	T	E	S	■	E	N	D	■	D	E	T	E	R
R	E	E	N	L	I	S	T	■	S	Y	N	O	D	S
■	■	■	■	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	■	■	■	■
I	S	L	E	T	S	■	C	U	T	E	N	E	S	S
T	E	E	N	S	■	P	E	W	■	S	U	I	T	E
A	C	E	S	■	H	O	R	A	S	■	B	L	O	C
L	O	T	U	S	E	S	■	N	O	R	■	E	M	U
I	N	I	R	O	N	S	■	N	U	C	L	E	A	R
C	A	D	E	N	C	E	■	E	L	M	O	N	T	E
S	L	E	D	G	E	S	■	E	S	P	O	S	A	S

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11/4/02

The lucent art of ceramic-tile painting

From page E6

ramics *muna*. You know, for something new."

Aguas is holding his second exhibit of tile painting with "Art Tile 2." Half of the pieces are on display until Nov. 6 in Gallery 139, 3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, while the other half will be on exhibit on Nov. 7-19 in Gallery 139, 5/L, SM Megamall.

These are not all ceramic pieces, however. The ongoing exhibit at the Glorietta comprises eight wrought-iron tables with ceramic tops (basic cube tables and Spanish-style trellis tables), 20 framed tile paintings, one oil on canvas, two acrylics on textured paper, and eight watercolors.

BART Aguas and his tile paintings mounted on wrought-iron, powder-finish frames

"OLÉ"

Subtlety of color

Aguas works on tiles of standard size of 4¼" x 4¼" or smaller ones of 2" x 2", glued together to form a square on which he paints his images and patterns. These are tiles from the first firing, the color creamish mixed with reddish-brown. The tiles come from China, the glaze and pigments from Spain.

He uses high-firing ceramic paint. The medium is understandably difficult to control, but it can attain subtlety in color variations, such as the distinct hues between salmon and old rose, mint and veridian, ultramarine and turquoise.

"Cobalt-blue has a tendency to spread on the surface, I don't know why," he reveals. "It's the property of the pigment *siguro*. Also, during firing, *umiiba ang kulay*. Cobalt-blue is violet when you apply the pigment and becomes blue only after firing."

His brother executes the wrought-iron framing and tables he designs. The black-iron frames for the paintings are plasma-cut to look like fretwork in a *ventanilla*, then dipped in acid, powder-coated, and oven-baked.

"There's no formal training for tile painting," he says. "You just go to a pottery shop and learn how to paint ceramic. Somehow my architecture studies in UST help—like rendering, which develops your watercolor technique. I did attend a pottery workshop once, but I haven't practiced what I've learned from it. Eventually *gagamitin ko rin 'yan* when I start making my own tiles."

Stylized forms

He is more into primary colors. "If my design has an architectural motif, I'm inclined to use monochrome, sepia."

His forms and patterns are stylized, mostly figurative, though he has experimented on various styles, including abstract. "I was doing portraits when I was small—you know, just the usual pencil on pad paper."

His abstraction consists of patterns. His acrylic "In My Oven" is blots of red, yellow, orange, gold, while the acrylic "Cobbled Path" is little squares and rectangles of violet.

His watercolors are washes of still lifes: Balinese figurines, Buddhist statuary, Oriental pottery, a canister of Chinese paintbrushes, an endless-knot charm.

For most of his ceramic tabletops, he uses the Art Nouveau motif of vines and flowers, while a few has Arabic floral patterns in yellow, matte blue, salmon, mint. One is filled with colorful Balinese masks, and another with portraits of European artists in brown-gray monochrome.

Aguas says he knows of no other local tile painting that's hand-painted, as most use machine. "One artist claims he's doing it, but what he does is overglaze, he paints over the glaze, *kaya mas mababa ang* firing. Mine is underglaze, I paint on the ceramic, glaze it over, then fire it."

He has experimented with and developed a new glazing method, utilizing the sepia process to achieve a washed-out, faded look. For crazing the ceramic, he applies higher firing to create craquelure for that vintage finish. He works on a smooth surface, though, for designs and motifs that are modern.

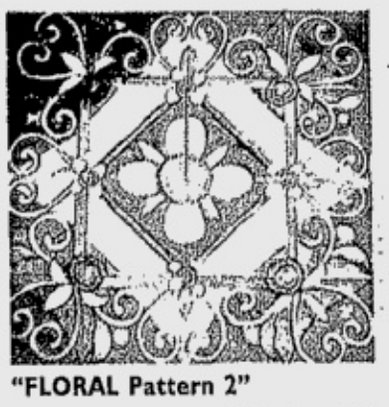
"AFTER Bath"

Oriental motifs

On a few tiles are images from medieval illuminations, such as a colorful knight and his ladylove, and a monochromatic Lady Godiva naked on horseback against patches of turquoise layered over with cobalt (which merged unevenly when melted).

Then there is a group of paintings of brown cherubs or cupids on pink clouds, gamboling with a trumpet, a flute, bow and arrow. Each is rendered against a background of turquoise bordered with cobalt, with delicate patterns done in scratch technique.

Most of the pieces, however, have Chinese, Indian, African, Balinese motifs. "*Mas gusto ko* Oriental art because it is richer in details."



"FLORAL Pattern 2"

"MOTHER and Child"

The paintings depict various activities such as storytelling, dancing, playing. There is an Indonesian puppet, African maidens pounding cereal in a mortar, two Indian women in a courtyard garden (the artist reveals the two are lesbians, one asking the other if there's a place where they can hide away).

Our favorite in this exhibit is a tile painting of a woman washing her hair in the style of Gauguin, delicately limned in a wash of orange and gold with highlights of blue and green. Why, it approaches the luminosity of stained glass!

Even just for this piece alone, we would say Bart Aguas has, indeed, arrived at the threshold of the art world.

Bicol artists . . .

From page E3

family bonding. Seven-year old Christine Joy S. Lao of the Cebu Academy of Arts won the top prize in the 6-9 category. Her work, "Reunion," was painted using cray-pas as a medium. The runners up in the category were Art John S. Blanco of the Blanco Family Academy and Karla Therese L. Sy of the Philippine Women's University-Total Wellness Fitness Center. In the 10-12 category, Joan L. Carlos of Art Rizal Antipolo-Amazing Art Workshop took first prize. Jobert L. Agustin of the Angono Artists Association and Rose Via T. Noval of the Cebu Academy of Arts were second and third, respectively.

GALLERY GENESIS presents "Pintanaw: Isang Makulay Na Pananaw," an exhibit of 14 young and talented artists: Lino Acasio, Boy Bandalan, Buds Convocar Noel Catacutan, Dems de la Cruz, Eliezer Dimaculangan, Caloy Gabuco, Jimmy Kwong, Robbie Nubla, Fred Ramirez, Omi Reyes, Danilo Santiago, Melencio Sapnu and Fidel Sarmiento. Until Nov.21, at Gallery Genesis, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 633-8137 or 38.

THE AYALA MUSEUM art galleries at the old Makati Stock Exchange building on Ayala Avenue presents an exhibition by the Federation of Asian Artists, Philippine Committee. On view are works by 19 Filipino artists exhibited in the recently concluded 17th Asian International Art Exhibition at the Daejeon Municipal Museum of Art, South Korea. Participating artists are Don "Amor" C. Amorsolo, Virgilio Aviado, Manuel Baldemor, Roland Bay-an, Benjie Cabangis, Ben Cabrera, Kiko Escora, Nona Garcia, Sid Gomez Hildawa, Nikulas Lebajo, Justin Nuyda, Cid Reyes, Roberto Robles, Susan Fetalvero-Roces, Roger Tibon, Wire Tuazon, Roy Veneracion, Nestor Olarte Vinluan and Phyllis Zaballero. The exhibit will run until Nov.30. Call 812-1191 to 95 local 103.

"RECENT WORKS 3" is the third in the series of group exhibitions, which Kulay Diwa Art Galleries launched in August. Featured in this exhibit are Ges Baloyo, Don Barranco, Mark Barretto, Santiago Bose, Noel Soler- Cuizon, Imelda Cajipe-Andaya, Alfredo Esquillo, Brenda Fajardo, Karen Ocampo-Flores, Mark Magugat, Jesus Genotiva, Carlo Gernale, Geraldine Javier, Dindo Llana, Jerome Malic, Ikoy Ricio, Ronaldo Ruiz and Juanito Torres. The exhibit runs until Nov.25. The gallery is at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Paranaque. Call 826-0574.

CCP Thirteen Artists Awardee Claro Ramirez recently opened "Deep Penetration," a multimedia interactive installation at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Small Gallery (4/F). Drawing upon a spectrum of issues that touch on varying levels of connection and engagement, Ramirez creates a paranoia-inducing light-and-sound environment that preys on the disruptive gestures, aural and visual intrusions of gallery visitors within the installation's defined space. Through these intervening actions, "Deep Penetration" attempts to bring soul, body and mind into the art experience, thus invoking notions of tentative/lingering crossovers between art and life. The exhibit runs until Nov. 25.

THE BEPPU Art Museum of Japan is inviting artists to participate in the 2003 Beppu Asia Contemporary Art Exhibition, to be held next year in Beppu City, Japan. Entries are limited to two works per applicant. No entry fee is required. Works may be in the form of paintings, photographs or computer graphics. Results will be announced in January 2003. Art specialists from Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Kumamoto Contemporary Art Museum, and Tokyo National University of Fine Arts will compose the panel of judges. Deadline for submission of slides with entry forms on Nov. 10.
Contest rules and application forms are available from the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Visual Arts Unit, 4th Level CCP Main Building. Call 8323702/1125 local 1504/1505.

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The lucent art of ceramic-tile painting

By Constantino C. Tejero

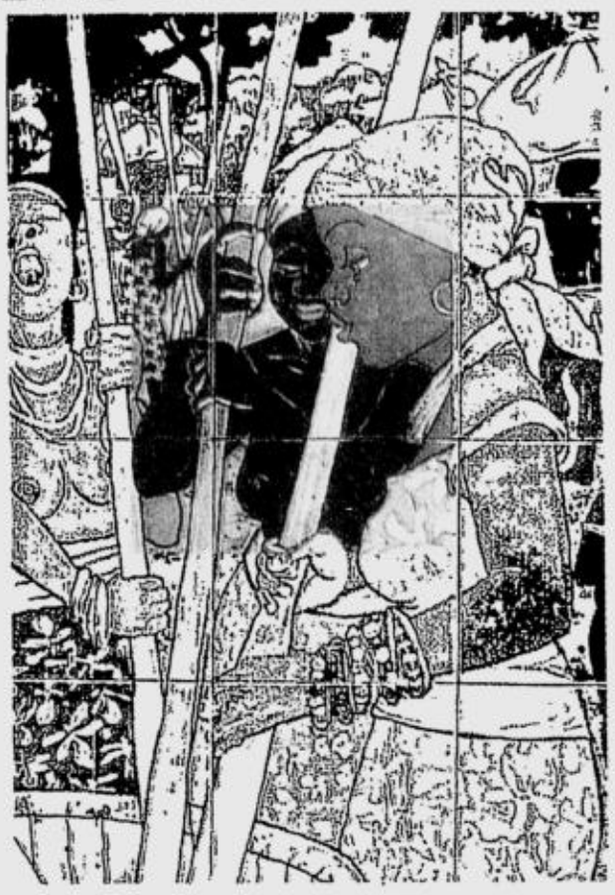
CERAMIC tile is a daunting medium for artistic expression, and that may be the reason why only a few of our artists have explored it (among them Remy Boquiren and Inday Cadapan).

Tile painting has long been traditional in Europe, particularly in Portuguese and Spanish cultures (with their strong Moorish influences), yet it is still considered new, even innovative and experimental, in the Philippines. Count Bart Aguas among the innovators.

An architect by profession, who designs mostly residences in Mediterranean, classical or rustic style, Aguas admits to utilizing tile painting to professionally break into the art world. Although, of course, his heart always goes for any art form that's experimental.

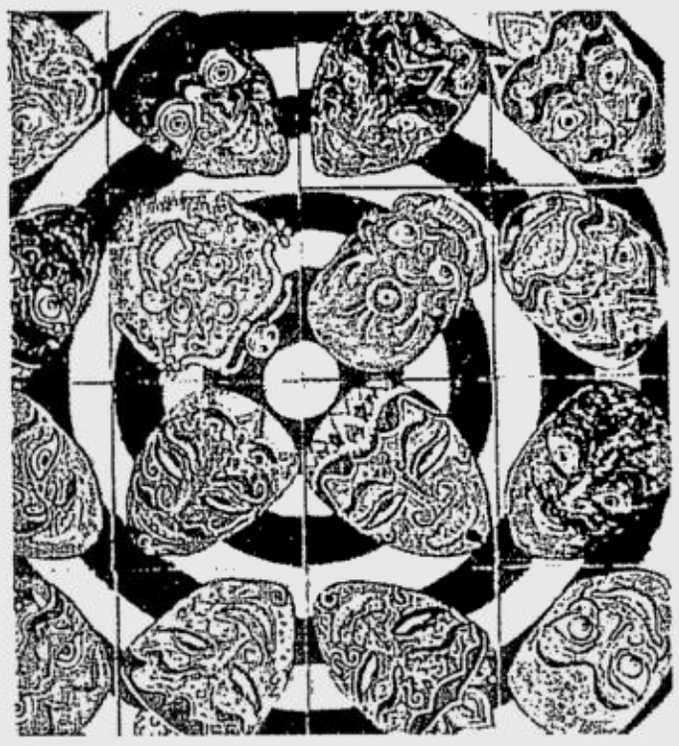
"Watercolor is my first medium," he says, "but in order for me to enter the art scene, ce-

THE LUCENT/ p.E5



"Daily Chorus"

"Masquerade"



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